NEW ROYAL FAMILIES ◦ UPRISINGS AND REVOLUTIONS ◦ BATTLES AND WARS

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

Discover the moments and events that have shaped our world

APRIL
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11 September 2001

20 July 1969

15 March 44 BCE

366
DAYS COVERED INSIDE

FROM THE MAKERS OF ALL ABOUT HISTORY

Digital Edition

FUTURE
THIRD EDITION

WELCOME TO

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

On 28 June 1914, a man was murdered. But it wasn't just anyone – it was Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his assassination sparked one of the bloodiest wars the world has ever seen, pulling countries from all around the globe into conflict. It was one event that changed everything we knew. Over the course of On This Day in History, uncover 365 more days just like this one. Explore the battles that have shaped the world, the monarchs who changed their countries and some of history's seminal publications. As we discover how the world as we know it came to be, take a trip to the ruins of Pompeii, see the opening of the Eiffel Tower and attend some of the most well-known weddings in history. If you want to travel through time, all you need to do is turn the page…

FUTURE

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

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JANUARY

Batista looking at a map of the Sierra Maestra Mountains, where Castro's followers were known to hide

01

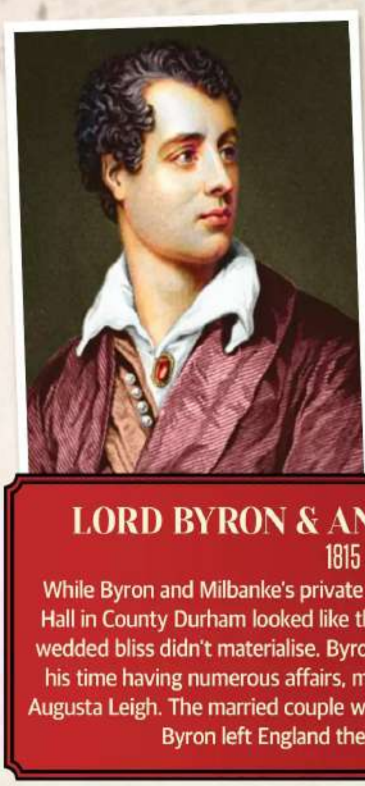
THE CUBAN REVOLUTION ENDS 1959

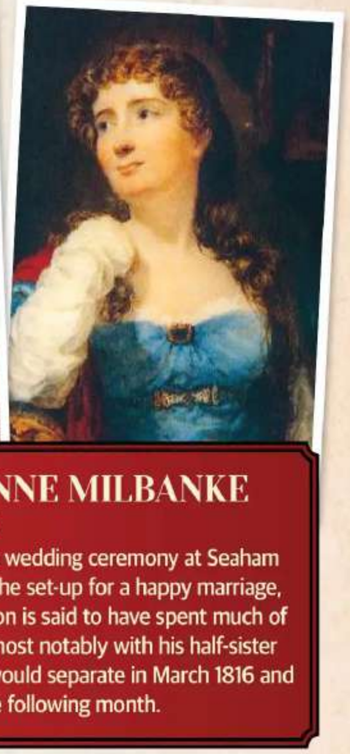
On the first day of 1959, Fidel Castro finally achieved his aim - he overthrew the Cuban president Fulgencio Batista, ending an armed revolt that had lasted over five years. Batista had been hated by his people thanks to his support of the United States' influence on the country, which had been going on since the Spanish-American War in 1899, especially with regards to the sugar industry.

Castro started his rebellion with a small group of supporters and attacked military barracks in the hopes of starting an uprising, but he was unsuccessful. Instead, he and his men were arrested and imprisoned for two years before being given amnesty in 1955. The following year, Castro gathered another force of guerrilla fighters and attempted to start the revolution. Over time it spread across the country, and on 31 December 1958 a force led by Che Guevara took the city of Santa Clara. Batista fled overseas and the revolutionaries declared victory on 1 January 1959.

02

MARRIED ON THIS DAY





LORD BYRON & ANNE MILBANKE

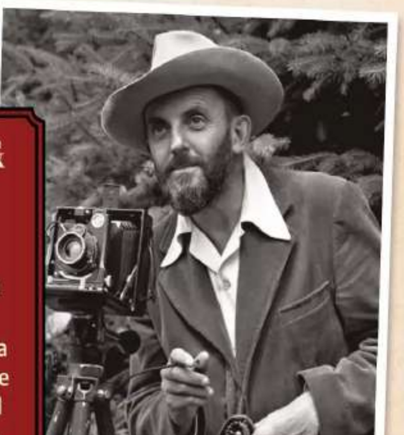
1815

While Byron and Milbanke's private wedding ceremony at Seaham Hall in County Durham looked like the set-up for a happy marriage, wedded bliss didn't materialise. Byron is said to have spent much of his time having numerous affairs, most notably with his half-sister Augusta Leigh. The married couple would separate in March 1816 and Byron left England the following month.

ANSEL ADAMS & VIRGINIA BEST

1928

It was classical music that brought photographer Ansel Adams and Virginia Best together, with Virginia being a singer and Ansel a pianist. The wedding was almost delayed as Ansel's best man lost the wedding ring in snow but it was found in time for the ceremony.

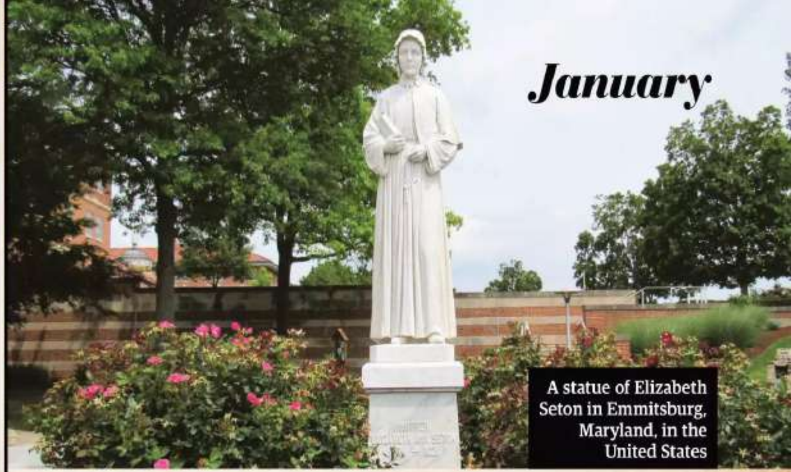


03

CHANG'E 4 LANDS ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON 2019

After being launched on 7 December 2018, China's Chang'e 4 rover became the first to land on the far side of the Moon. Projected to last for just 29 Earth days, it has vastly surpassed this and has even been home to the first biological matter ever grown on the Moon: cotton seeds.

© NASA


A statue of Elizabeth Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in the United States

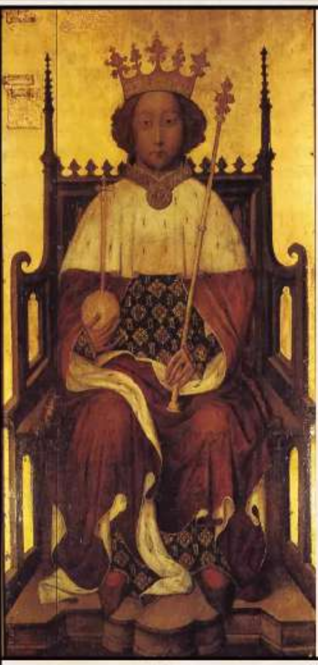
04 ELIZABETH SETON DIES 1821

The first native-born citizen of the United States of America to be canonised as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church, Elizabeth Seton founded the first Catholic girls' school as well as the first American religious society for women, the Sisters of Charity.

Bonnie and Clyde pose in front of a 1932 Ford V-8

05 BONNIE AND CLYDE MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME 1930

The fateful event happened when Clyde Barrow received news that his sister had broken her arm and went home to visit. When he arrived he found Bonnie Parker, a friend of his sister, in the kitchen making a hot chocolate. The two immediately fell in love. They would go on to form a gang that would travel the central US, robbing stores and banks and killing several people, including police officers, until they were ambushed by police and killed.



06

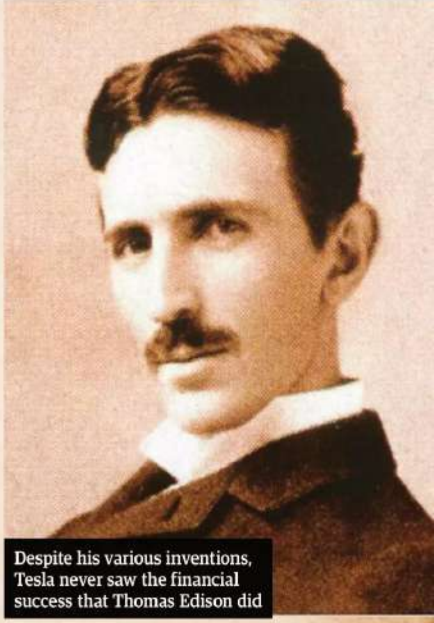
RICHARD II BORN 1367

Born in Bordeaux, France, to the Black Prince, Richard became the king of England at the tender age of ten - his father died before he could rule. In the years that Richard governed he would lose favour with the people of England before Henry of Bolingbroke amassed a force and took the throne as Henry IV. Richard was then imprisoned and he died shortly after.

07

NIKOLA TESLA DIES 1943

The Serbian-American engineer passed away at the age of 86 in the New Yorker Hotel. Now known as the man the Tesla car was named after, he invented the first AC motor and helped develop the AC generator and a high-voltage transformer, the Tesla coil.


Despite his various inventions, Tesla never saw the financial success that Thomas Edison did

8

1642

DEATH OF GALILEO GALILEI

The Italian astronomer who used the first modern telescope to map the phases of Venus and the moons of Jupiter died in 1642. His contention that the Earth was not at the centre of the universe saw him labelled a heretic by the Catholic Church.

1790

WASHINGTON DELIVERS THE FIRST STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Born into the landed class, Washington had presided over the drafting of the US Constitution and established a form of government still in use today. He also commanded the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

1918

WOODROW WILSON ANNOUNCES HIS '14 POINTS'

The American president envisioned a postwar world based on international cooperation, free trade and democracy. His speech was the only explicit statement of war aimed by a belligerent power.

1940

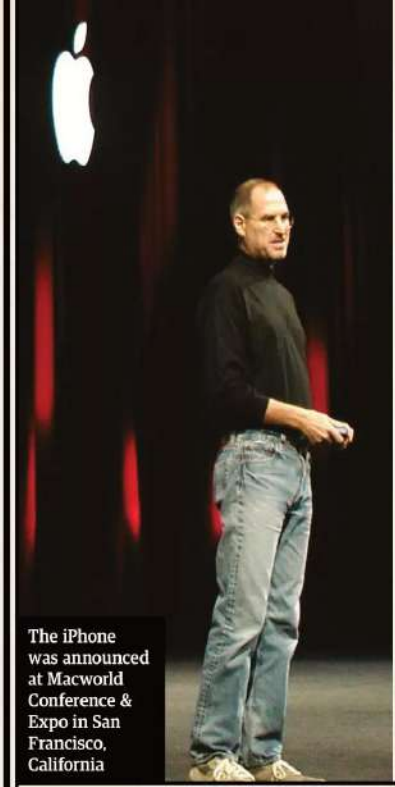
BRITAIN INTRODUCES RATIONING

Rationing initially applied to bacon, butter and sugar but soon extended to a wide range of food, fuel and consumer goods. A black market soon emerged. Rationing continued after the war, up until July 1954.

1973

TRIALS OF WATERGATE BURGLARS BEGIN

A break-in occurred the previous June at the Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, DC. The scandal led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974.



The iPhone was announced at Macworld Conference & Expo in San Francisco, California

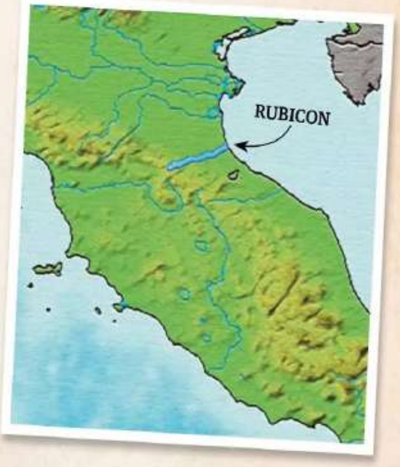
9 STEVE JOBS ANNOUNCES THE IPHONE 2007

"Every once in a while, a revolutionary product comes along that changes everything." Steve Jobs wasn't lying when he said those words. He proclaimed in 2007 that the company would be announcing a widescreen iPod with touch controls, a mobile phone and a breakthrough internet communicator. He then said that these wouldn't be three devices but one. By removing the majority of buttons, Apple revolutionised the smartphone market.

10 CROSSING THE RUBICON 49 BCE

When Julius Caesar led a legion across the Rubicon on 10 January 49 BCE, he admitted, "Alea iacta est" ("the dye has been cast"). He had committed a blatant act of war in direct contravention of the Lex Cornelia Majestatis, a law forbidding generals to enter the Italian peninsula with an army.

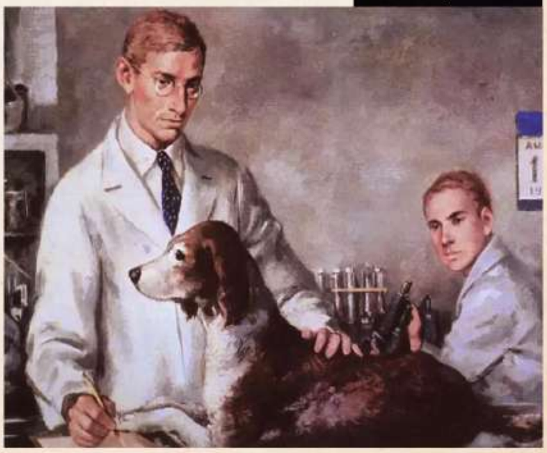
Aware of the Senate's demand that he hand ten of his legions over to a new governor, Caesar chose to ignore Rome's government and instead seize power for himself, heading south at full speed. By 45 BCE he be would be victorious, having defeated the might of Pompey's armies and subsequently those of Pompey's son. However, his reign as dictator would be short-lived.

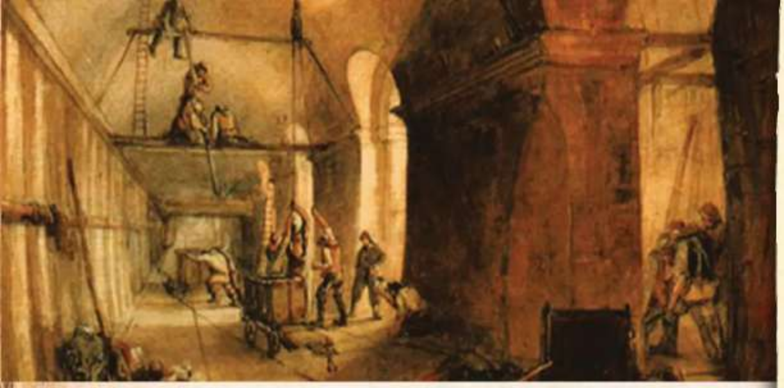


11 DISCOVERY OF INSULIN 1921

It was known from 1869 that pancreas damage caused diabetes, and it was soon discovered that the pancreas produces substances that control the level of sugar in the body. However, it wasn't until October 1920 that doctor Frederick Banting started trying to find an antidiabetic secretion from the pancreas. Along with Charles Best, he experimented on dogs, discovering that insulin injections could alleviate the symptoms of diabetes.

Sir Frederick Banting extended the life expectancy and the quality of life of diabetics after his discovery of insulin





12 THAMES TUNNEL COLLAPSES 1828

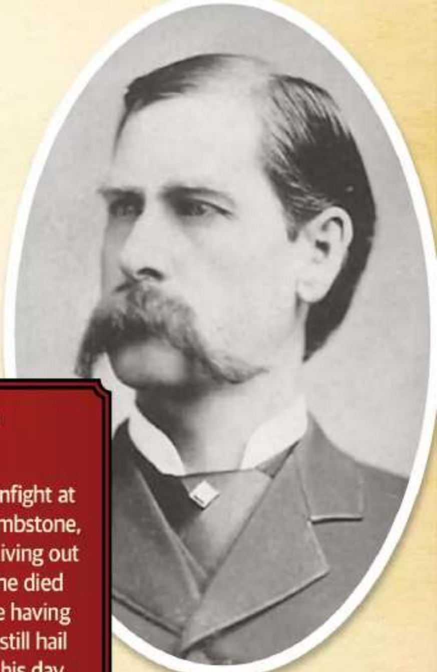
While working on the Thames Tunnel, a 21-year-old Isambard Kingdom Brunel almost died when part of the tunnel flooded. Six men lost their lives but Brunel, while badly injured, was saved by fellow engineer Richard Beamish. He was sent off to Brighton to recuperate only for the illness to relapse, and he didn't recover until the spring. In the meantime, work on the tunnel ground to a standstill.

14 MARGRETHE II ASCENDS THE DANISH THRONE 1972

Queen Margrethe, pictured in 2012

Since 1412, Denmark had only seen kings hold the crown – until 1972. Queen Margrethe II ascended the throne after the death of her father, King Frederick IV, in 1972 and became the first woman to rule Denmark in 560 years. She had been born just a week after the Nazis had invaded Poland in World War II and was educated both in Denmark and England. However, the future of the Danish crown looks set to revert back to kings regnant, with Prince Frederick next in line and his son Prince Christian after him.

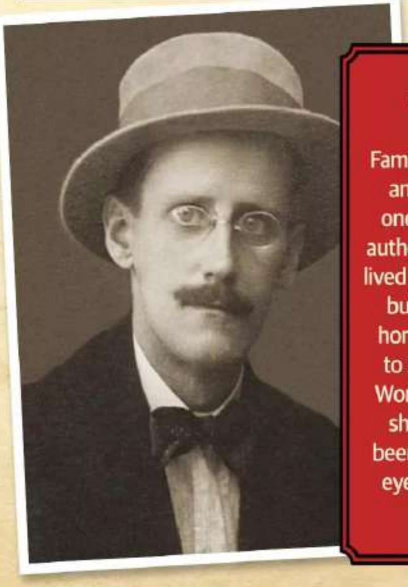
13 DIED ON THIS DAY



WYATT EARP

1929

Best known for his role in the gunfight at the OK Corral, Wyatt Earp left Tombstone, Arizona, to escape prosecution. Living out the rest of his life in California, he died in Los Angeles from liver disease having made it to the age of 80. Many still hail him as the toughest gunman of his day.



JAMES JOYCE

1941

Famous for works such as Ulysses and Dubliners, James Joyce is one of Ireland's most influential authors. Born in Dublin in 1882, he lived in various cities across Europe but always set his books in his home city. He moved from Paris to Zurich with his family during World War II but he passed away shortly after, aged 58. He had been suffering from deteriorating eyesight and colitis for much of his life.

The smell of the molasses lingered for weeks after the incident

15 GREAT MOLASSES FLOOD 1534

At 12.40pm in the north harbour of Boston, Massachusetts, the unexpected happened – a metal container broke open, spilling 2.3 million gallons of molasses. A tall wave of the dark syrup rushed through the streets at 35 miles per hour, overturning cars, destroying buildings and trapping civilians in its path. Contemporary newspapers reported the wave being 15 metres tall and hitting 100 people before it stopped. When the molasses reacted with the cold New England winter weather it began to harden, making it tough for anyone caught in it to escape. The first people on the scene to help out were sailors form the nearby USS Nantucket. They attempted to help anyone caught in the waist-deep liquid while the police and fire service made their way to the scene.

21 people died in the incident with another 150 injured. A total of 119 lawsuits were filed against United States Industrial Alcohol (USIA), which owned the container. The suits claimed that the container was too thin for its contents and the courts agreed, forcing the USIA to pay the families of the victims.

16

HITLER GOES UNDERGROUND

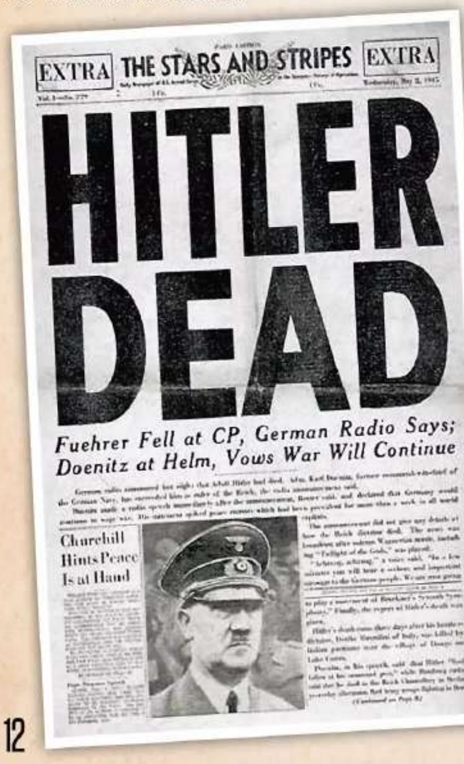
1945

As the war raged on the streets of Berlin, Nazi Germany's führer decided that it was time for him to rule his nation from 15 metres underground in his subterranean lair, the Führerbunker. It was here, underneath the Reich Chancellory, that Adolf Hitler would orchestrate the German war effort for the next 105 days, meeting and strategising with generals until the early hours of the morning.

The bunker had its own water, electricity and heating supplies, making life somewhat luxurious for the inhabitants. It was accessed via a red-carpeted corridor that led from the main entrance in the garden of the Chancellory. However, it was undoubtedly claustrophobic. Crammed into the underground citadel were Hitler, Eva Braun, Joseph Goebbels' wife and six children, officers and staff.

The atmosphere was certainly gloomy, and it didn't even pick up when Hitler married his long-time mistress Eva at the end of April 1945. According to Goebbels' secretary, Brunhilde Pomsel, the main concern in the bunker was running out of alcohol, as it was used to "retain the numbness". Some of the inhabitants even cut up white flour sacks to use as white flags to surrender when the Russians finally found them.

Hitler's allies spent the next few months trying to convince him to leave Berlin and escape to his Alpine retreat of Berchtesgaden. Russia's Red Army was approaching and the soldiers weren't known for their mercy. But the Führer refused, instead determined to be a martyr, believing that his presence in the city would inspire what was left of the Wehrmacht to hold out.

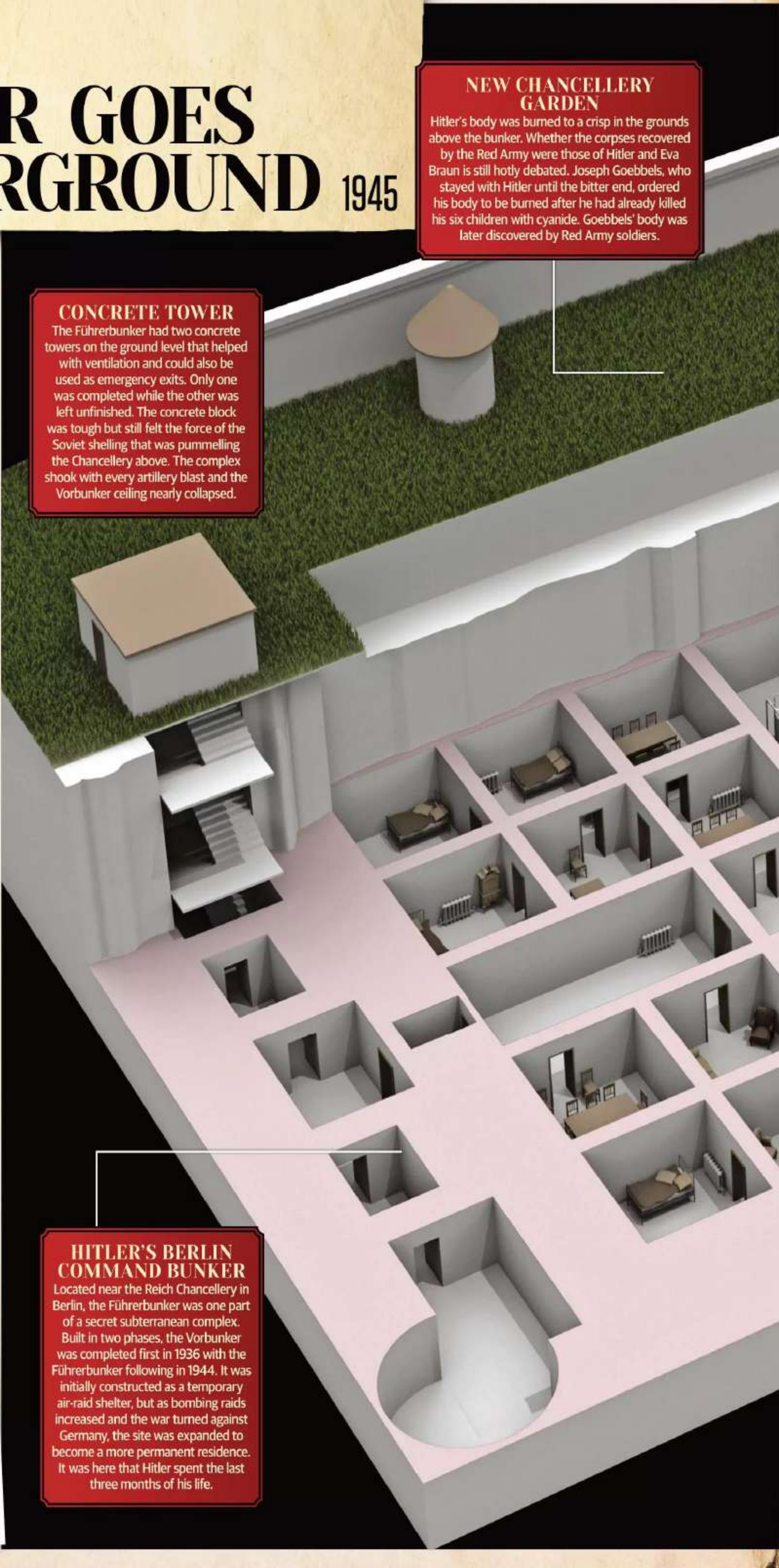


EXTRA THE STARS AND STRIPES EXTRA

HITLER DEAD

Fuehrer Fell at CP, German Radio Says; Doenitz at Helm, Vows War Will Continue

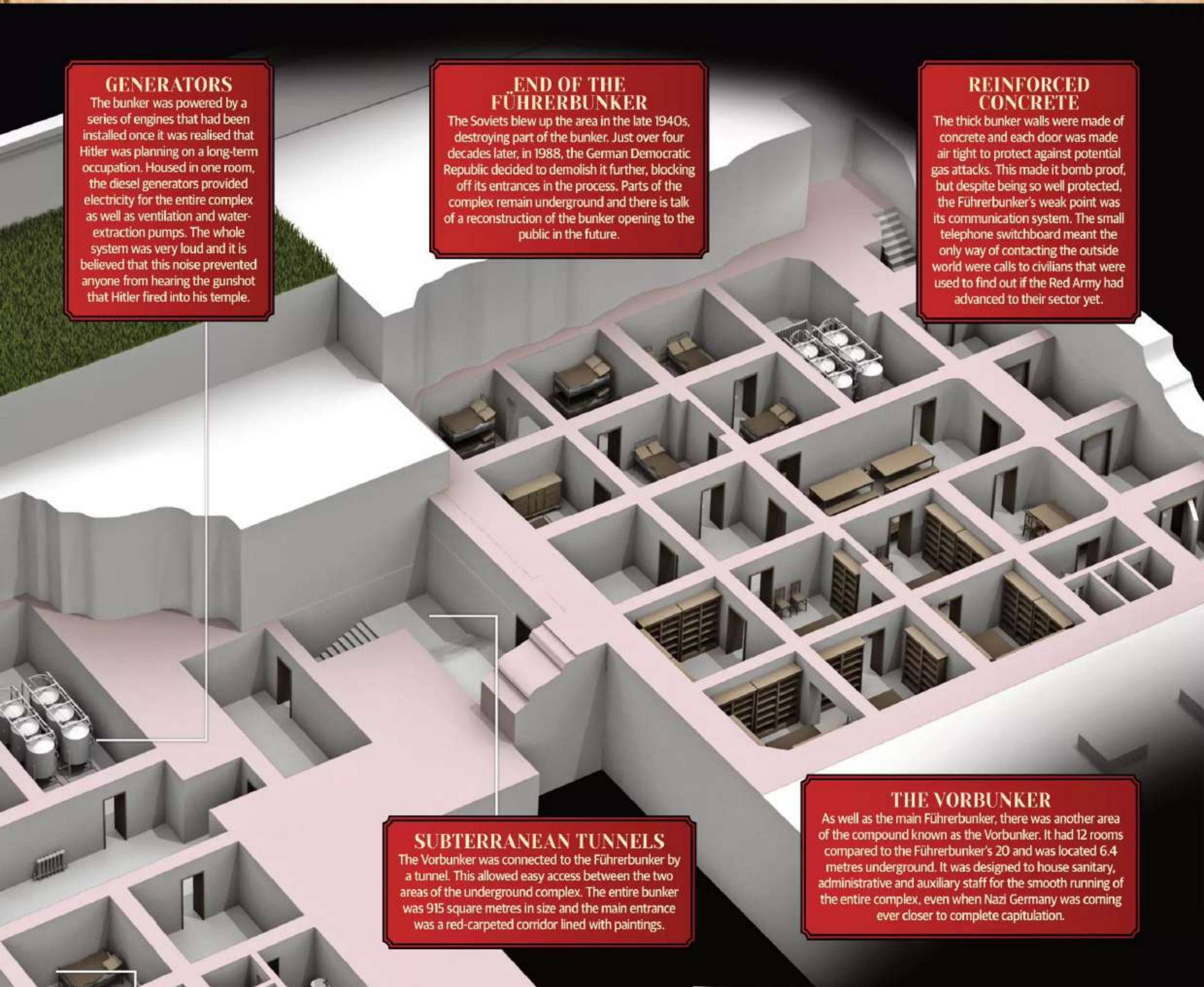
Churchill Hints Peace Is at Hand



NEW CHANCELLERY GARDEN
Hitler's body was burned to a crisp in the grounds above the bunker. Whether the corpses recovered by the Red Army were those of Hitler and Eva Braun is still hotly debated. Joseph Goebbels, who stayed with Hitler until the bitter end, ordered his body to be burned after he had already killed his six children with cyanide. Goebbels' body was later discovered by Red Army soldiers.

CONCRETE TOWER
The Führerbunker had two concrete towers on the ground level that helped with ventilation and could also be used as emergency exits. Only one was completed while the other was left unfinished. The concrete block was tough but still felt the force of the Soviet shelling that was pummelling the Chancellery above. The complex shook with every artillery blast and the Vorbunker ceiling nearly collapsed.

HITLER'S BERLIN COMMAND BUNKER
Located near the Reich Chancellery in Berlin, the Führerbunker was one part of a secret subterranean complex. Built in two phases, the Vorbunker was completed first in 1936 with the Führerbunker following in 1944. It was initially constructed as a temporary air-raid shelter, but as bombing raids increased and the war turned against Germany, the site was expanded to become a more permanent residence. It was here that Hitler spent the last three months of his life.



GENERATORS

The bunker was powered by a series of engines that had been installed once it was realised that Hitler was planning on a long-term occupation. Housed in one room, the diesel generators provided electricity for the entire complex as well as ventilation and water-extraction pumps. The whole system was very loud and it is believed that this noise prevented anyone from hearing the gunshot that Hitler fired into his temple.

END OF THE FÜHRERBUNKER

The Soviets blew up the area in the late 1940s, destroying part of the bunker. Just over four decades later, in 1988, the German Democratic Republic decided to demolish it further, blocking off its entrances in the process. Parts of the complex remain underground and there is talk of a reconstruction of the bunker opening to the public in the future.

REINFORCED CONCRETE

The thick bunker walls were made of concrete and each door was made air tight to protect against potential gas attacks. This made it bomb proof, but despite being so well protected, the Führerbunker's weak point was its communication system. The small telephone switchboard meant the only way of contacting the outside world were calls to civilians that were used to find out if the Red Army had advanced to their sector yet.

SUBTERRANEAN TUNNELS

The Vorbunker was connected to the Führerbunker by a tunnel. This allowed easy access between the two areas of the underground complex. The entire bunker was 915 square metres in size and the main entrance was a red-carpeted corridor lined with paintings.

THE VORBUNKER

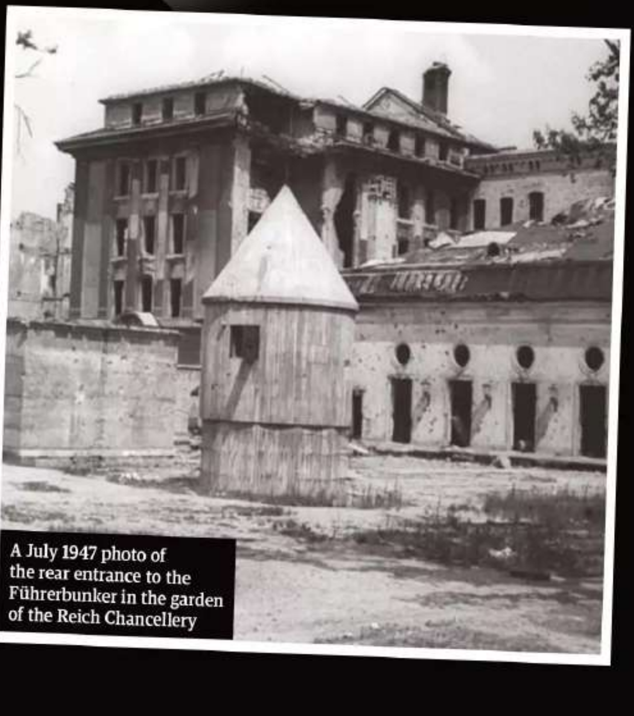
As well as the main Führerbunker, there was another area of the compound known as the Vorbunker. It had 12 rooms compared to the Führerbunker's 20 and was located 6.4 metres underground. It was designed to house sanitary, administrative and auxiliary staff for the smooth running of the entire complex, even when Nazi Germany was coming ever closer to complete capitulation.

A LITTLE BIT OF LUXURY

The entire underground building was originally designed as a simple air-raid shelter, but it became something much grander. The luxury of the Führerbunker may have been above a standard air-raid bunker but it was a world away from the Wolfsschanze (Wolf's Lair) where Hitler orchestrated his strategies during the war. The conference room in particular was cramped, but this was where the final military briefings of the German war effort were held.

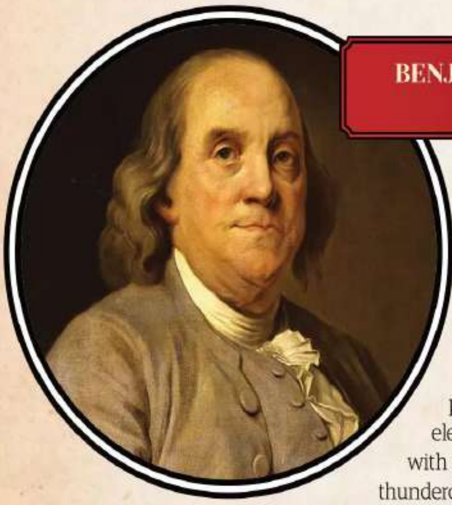
A VARIETY OF ROOMS

Hitler stayed in the bunker for 105 days from January 1945 until his suicide in April. The area was kitted out with a number of quarters to make the stay as bearable and functional as possible. The Führer had an office and a map room to plan military strategy in, as well as a bedroom and a bathroom and even a room specifically reserved for his dogs and bodyguards.



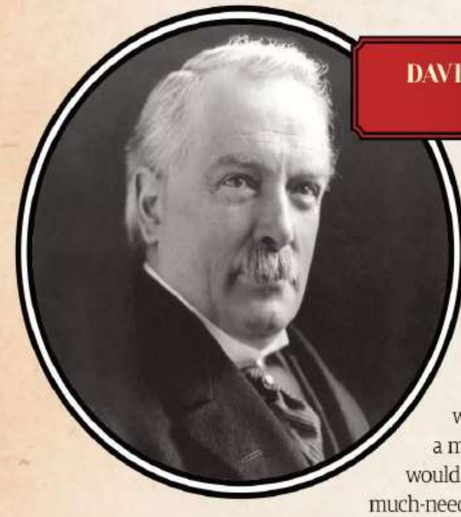
A July 1947 photo of the rear entrance to the Führerbunker in the garden of the Reich Chancellery

17 BORN ON THIS DAY



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
1706

Benjamin Franklin wasn't just one of the Founding Fathers of the United States; he was a writer, politician, scientist, newspaper editor and an inventor. He famously proved that lighting is electricity by flying a kite with conductive wire under thunderclouds and would later go on to invent the lightning rod.

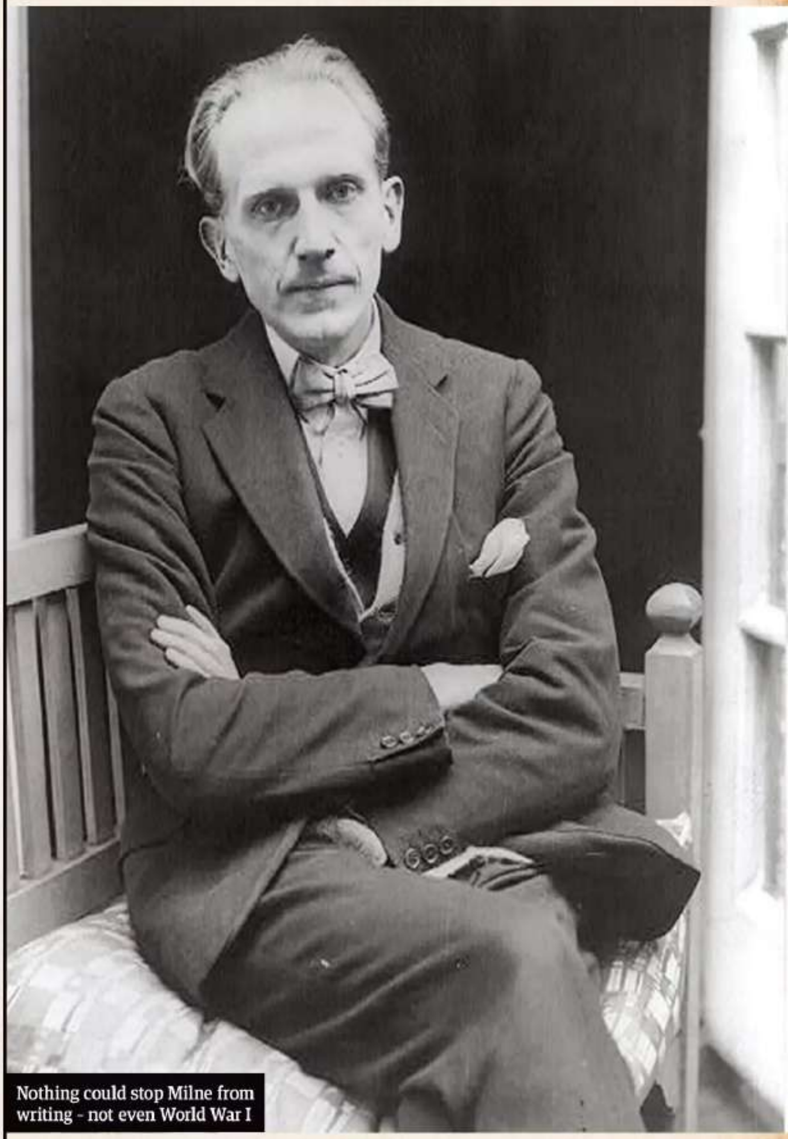


DAVID LLOYD GEORGE
1863

The first and currently only Welshman to ever be prime minister, David Lloyd George was appointed to the position in 1916 after support for HH Asquith disintegrated. He was chosen as he was seen as a man of the people, one who would give the country's morale a much-needed boost during the difficult years of World War I.

AL CAPONE
1899

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Alphonse 'Al' Capone would become one of America's most famous gangsters. Hired as a bouncer by the gangster Frankie Yale while still in his teens, Capone was appointed head of the Chicago mafia in 1925. In 1929 he was ambushed by the IRS after his former lawyer Eddie O'Hare betrayed him. Sentenced to 11 years in prison, Capone had O'Hare killed.



Nothing could stop Milne from writing - not even World War I

18 AA MILNE BORN 1882

Alan Alexander Milne is best known for creating the *Winnie the Pooh* series, but he also wrote for magazines, authored nonfiction books and penned over 30 plays.

The son of schoolteachers, he began writing at a young age. In fact, one of his teachers in primary school was none other than HG Wells, who wrote notable sci-fi books including *The War of the Worlds*, *The Invisible Man* and *The Time Machine*.

In 1906, he started working as an editor for *Punch Magazine*, a weekly satire publication, but he would write novels at the same time until World War I, when he was deployed to France. While serving he continued to write, completing three plays.

When he came back from the war, he and his wife Dorothy de Selincourt moved to a farm in Sussex. With the farm's nearby forest and his son Christopher Robin serving as inspiration, Milne would finally write the *Winnie the Pooh* books. The books, illustrated by EH Shepard, followed Christopher Robin and his toy animals, Pooh, Piglet and Tigger.

They were incredibly popular upon their release, but with their success came frustration for Milne. He felt that the popularity of the *Pooh* books undermined all of his other works. As Christopher Robin grew up he too came to resent the books as he was constantly mocked at school - so much so that Milne allegedly nicknamed Christopher 'Billy'.

19

EL CHAPO ESCAPES 2001

The name El Chapo is Spanish for 'shorty', but while that may not sound too threatening, the man behind it was ruthless. Having set up the Sinaloa Cartel in the late 1980s, El Chapo became responsible for an estimated 25 per cent of the illegal drugs that entered the US via Mexico.

Arrested in 1993, El Chapo was sentenced to 20 years in a maximum-security prison for murder and trafficking. While incarcerated he bribed numerous guards, allowing him to organise his escape.

Arrested in 2014, he escaped again 16 months later. He is now behind bars in New York awaiting trial.

In 2017, El Chapo was extradited to the US to face numerous charges, including drug trafficking

Obama is regarded as one of the greatest orators of modern times

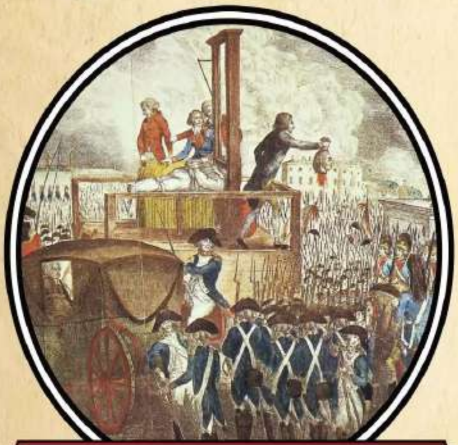
20

INAUGURATION OF BARACK OBAMA 2009

Barack Obama placed one hand on a Bible held by his wife Michelle and raised the other as he recited the presidential oath, in doing so becoming the first African-American president in US history. The Democrat had won the 2008 election race against Republican John McCain by promising "Change We Can Believe In", calling for a shake-up within Washington and opposition to the Iraq War. With 365 electoral votes, Obama received the largest share of the popular vote won by a Democrat since Lyndon B Johnson in 1964. He would go on to serve a second term in office as president.

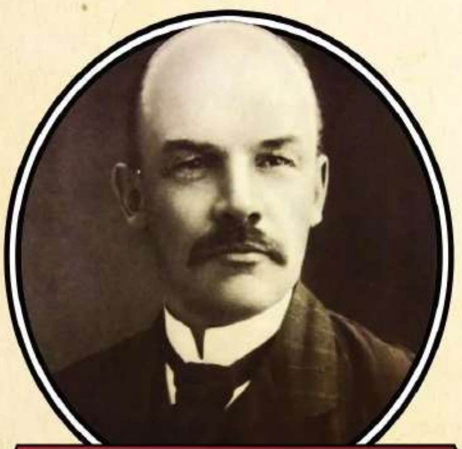
21

DIED ON THIS DAY



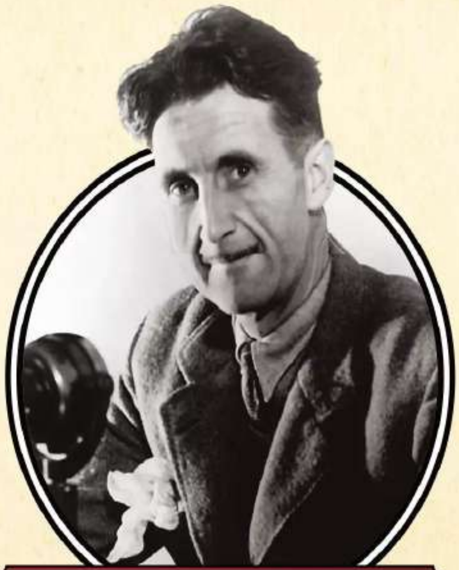
KING LOUIS XVI
1793

King Louis XVI held onto his crown as long as he could during the French Revolution. After being arrested and convicted of treason for conspiring with foreign powers, he was executed by guillotine at the Place de la Revolution in Paris, with the blade cutting through the back of his head into his jaw.



LENIN
1869

Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (better known as Lenin) was the first leader of the Soviet Union, becoming the dictator of the country after the Bolsheviks seized power. He died from a brain haemorrhage and his body was embalmed before being placed inside a mausoleum located in Moscow's Red Square.



GEORGE ORWELL
1950

You may not have read the novel *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, but you will know some of the ideas it introduced, such as Big Brother. The author George Orwell, born Eric Arthur Blair, had many jobs before becoming a writer, including working on propaganda for the BBC. He died in hospital after suffering from tuberculosis.

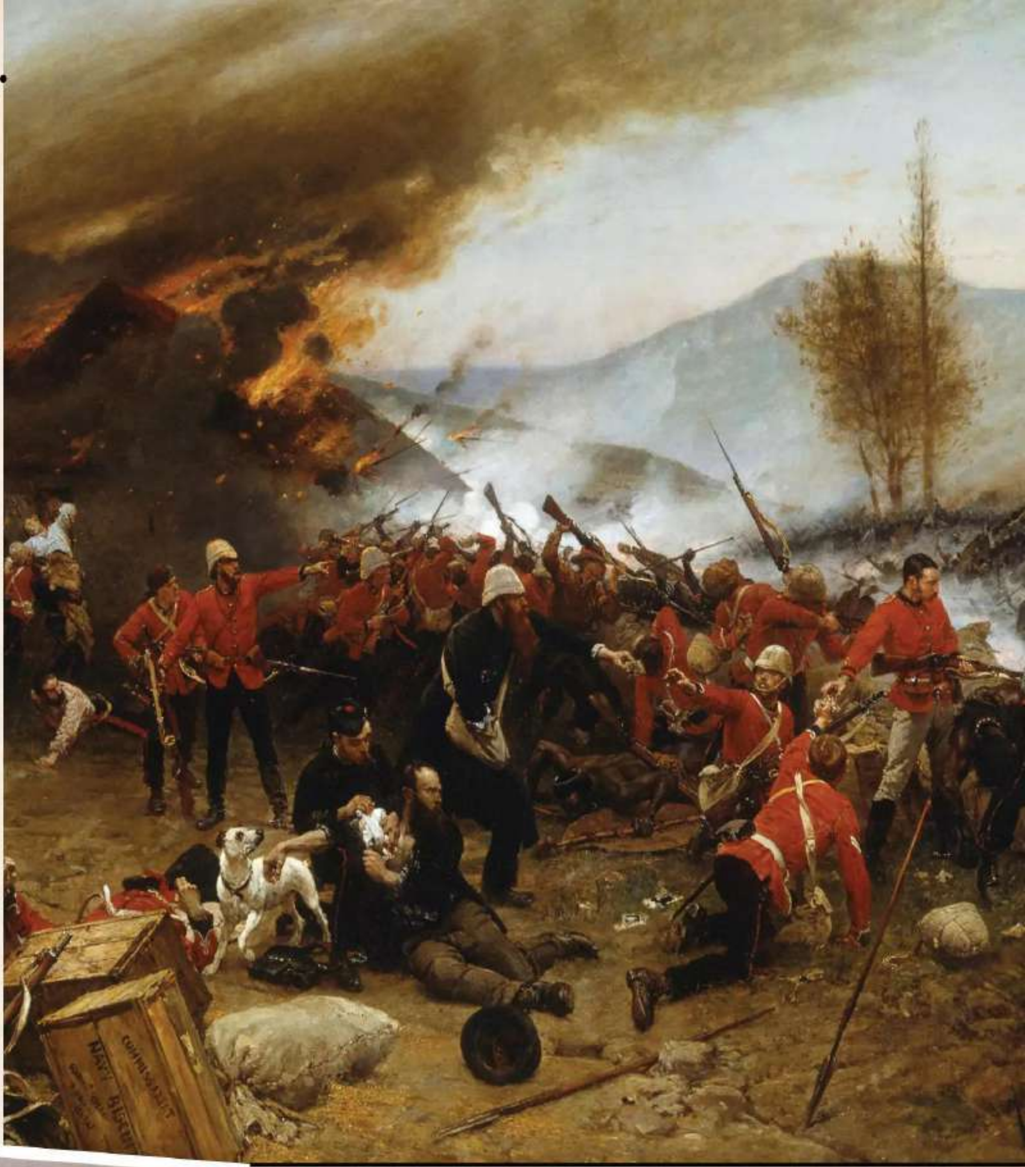
22

BATTLE OF RORKE'S DRIFT

1879

More Victoria Crosses have been handed out to soldiers who fought at the hospital at Rorke's Drift in South Africa than in any other battle, and it's not hard to see why. As the Zulu War raged in South Africa in the late 1870s, a garrison of approximately 150 men was holed up with the sick and wounded fighting alongside the healthy. For up to 12 hours they held off 4,000 formidable Zulu warriors who were mainly armed with spears and shields.

The British had been warned that the Zulus were coming, but there was no time to flee with the injured men. Instead, they decided to stay and fight, building makeshift barricades from maize bags, biscuit boxes and crates of tinned meat. The impromptu walls worked - the Zulus couldn't get their spears through to cause any damage and the British bayonets impaled anyone who tried to climb over. However, the Zulus still managed to storm the hospital and began killing patients in their beds, but the British ultimately repelled them.



23

ELIZABETH BLACKWELL RECEIVES MEDICAL DEGREE 1849

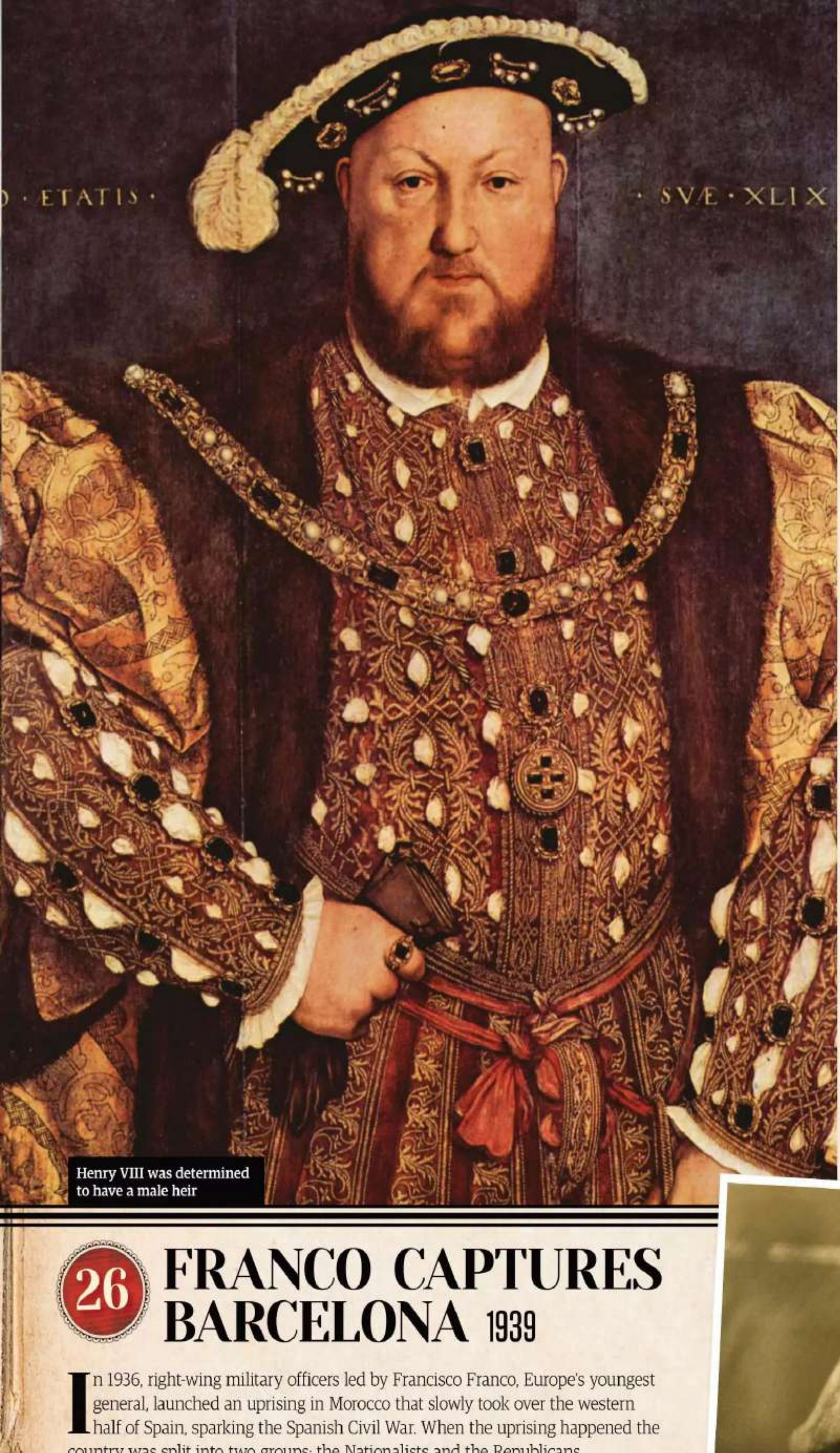
She was destined to break the mould. Elizabeth Blackwell's family moved from Bristol, England, to America when she was a young age, but shortly after arriving her father died. After one of her friends became seriously ill, she decided that she wanted to become a doctor. She applied to several schools before being accepted into Geneva Medical School in New York State in 1847.

After two years, Elizabeth became the first woman in the United States to receive a medical degree. For the next two years she worked at clinics in Paris and London before losing sight in one eye due to infection. While this prevented her from becoming a surgeon, it didn't stop her studying medicine. After moving back to the United States, Elizabeth's sister Emily decided to follow in her footsteps and together they established the New York Infirmary for Women and Children in 1856. Elizabeth often returned to England to campaign for women in medicine, becoming the first woman to be entered in the British General Medical Council's medical register.

24

WINSTON CHURCHILL DIES 1965

The face of the British war effort in World War II, Churchill wasn't always a public figure. Having served in the armed forces before leaving to focus on writing and politics, he became a correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph* then an MP in 1900. After the 1910 election he was made Home Secretary and then First Lord of the Admiralty. Then in 1940, with war raging, he was chosen to replace Neville Chamberlain as prime minister. After the war he found his Conservative government ousted, but he would lead the nation again before his death at 90.



Henry VIII was determined to have a male heir

25

HENRY VIII AND ANNE BOLEYN MARRY 1533

Henry VIII's second marriage was the one out of his six to court the most controversy. While his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, had been with him for over 20 years, she had been unable to provide him with a male heir. Out of her six pregnancies, only one ended with a healthy child - a girl. That's when Anne Boleyn appeared.

She was younger, more attractive and more likely to produce the son Henry craved. He asked the pope for an annulment with Catherine but was denied. It wasn't exactly the answer he was looking for, especially as Anne had become pregnant. They needed to marry as soon as possible to negate any suspicion of an affair. Henry decided to go his own way, invoking the Act of Supremacy, which made him head of the new Church of England. He severed links with the pope and the Roman Catholic Church, allowing him to divorce his first wife and move on to number two. He also regained the political power that had been under the papacy.

A secret wedding ceremony took place in the highest chamber of the Holbein Gate, part of Henry's palace in Westminster. A total of four people were present. Four months later, his divorce from Catherine became official, but his new marriage wouldn't be so happy. Anne would fall from favour and be executed, with the king going on to marry four more times.

26

FRANCO CAPTURES BARCELONA 1939

In 1936, right-wing military officers led by Francisco Franco, Europe's youngest general, launched an uprising in Morocco that slowly took over the western half of Spain, sparking the Spanish Civil War. When the uprising happened the country was split into two groups: the Nationalists and the Republicans.

Franco's Nationalist forces were supported by Nazi Germany and Italy, who provided arms, and with these supplies they quickly captured northern Spain. Throughout the civil war Barcelona was the Republic's capital, so Franco made it his target. After the nationalists captured Barcelona the rest of eastern Spain fell and the republican forces attempted to negotiate peace. Franco did not want to negotiate and continued on to Madrid, which he captured, thereby ending the Civil War.

The Spanish Civil War lasted just under three years and throughout the war around 1 million lives were lost, the most in Spain's history. Franco would become dictator, controlling Spain until his death in 1975. During his reign he would keep Spain out of World War II for the most part, only sending a number of volunteers to fighting alongside the German forces.

Franco claimed to have 26,000 political prisoners under arrest after he took control of Spain

27

AUSCHWITZ IS LIBERATED 1945

Prisoners were transported from all over German-occupied Europe to the camps via train

It was one of the most notorious concentration camps in Europe, and on 27 January 1945 Soviet forces finally managed to liberate it. Throughout January they had been advancing through Nazi-controlled Poland, and when they entered Auschwitz they freed over 7,000 people. However, a few days before the Soviet soldiers had arrived, the guards had been ordered to evacuate prisoners and march them towards Wodzislaw, west of Auschwitz and closer to the German prewar border. Most of the people found in the camps were either severely ill or dying, so they weren't able to make the march and had been left behind.

Nazi guards had also been ordered to burn records and destroy certain structures. Because of this attempt to remove evidence, estimates on how many people were taken to the death camps can't be verified. Most of what we know comes from survivors' accounts and the little remaining evidence discovered at the scene as there were a number of storage buildings filled with clothes that the Germans couldn't burn in time.

28

CHALLENGER EXPLODES 1986

Space Shuttle Challenger and its seven-member crew died when a ruptured O-ring in the right solid rocket booster caused an explosion just 73 seconds after the launch. The disaster led to a 36-month suspension of the Space Shuttle programme and an investigation that found that NASA had disregarded numerous warnings before lift-off.

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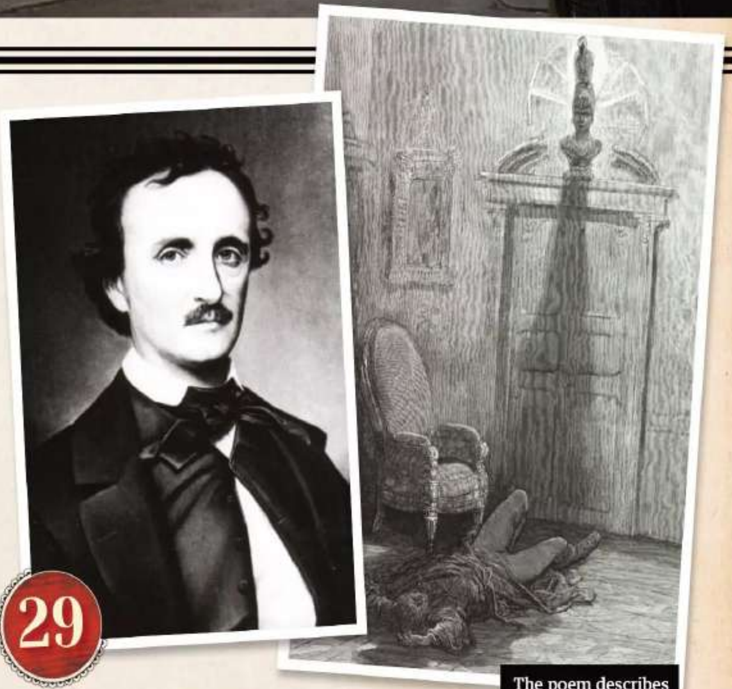
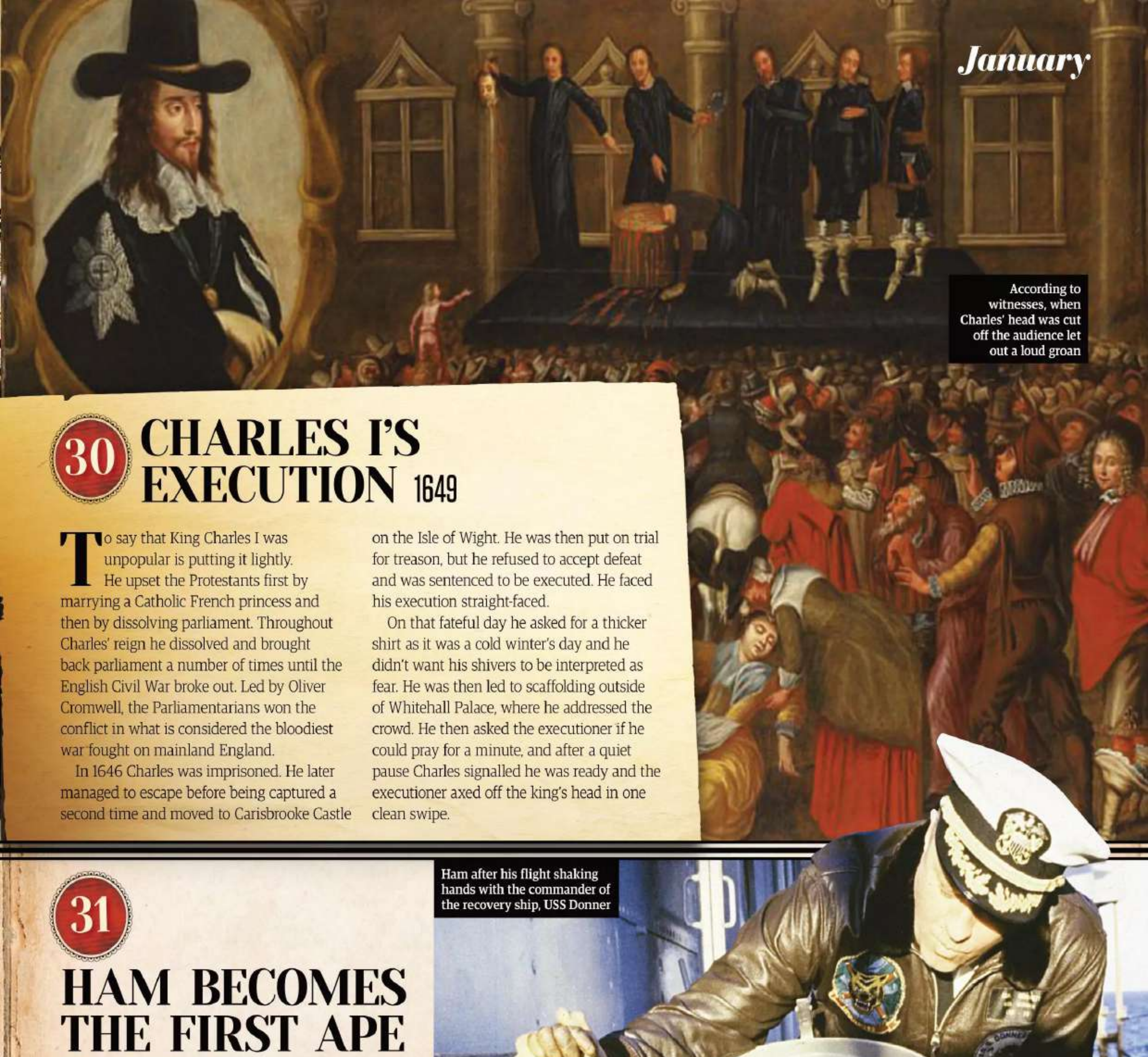


29

THE RAVEN PUBLISHED 1845

The poem describes a raven visiting a man lamenting the loss of his true love

Edgar Allan Poe was one of the first writers to try earning a living from his works. While he is considered the father of modern detective stories, he's perhaps best known for his poem *The Raven*. Published in the *New York Evening Mirror*, the poem was a reflection of Poe's dark view on his life.



According to witnesses, when Charles' head was cut off the audience let out a loud groan

30 CHARLES I'S EXECUTION 1649

To say that King Charles I was unpopular is putting it lightly. He upset the Protestants first by marrying a Catholic French princess and then by dissolving parliament. Throughout Charles' reign he dissolved and brought back parliament a number of times until the English Civil War broke out. Led by Oliver Cromwell, the Parliamentarians won the conflict in what is considered the bloodiest war fought on mainland England.

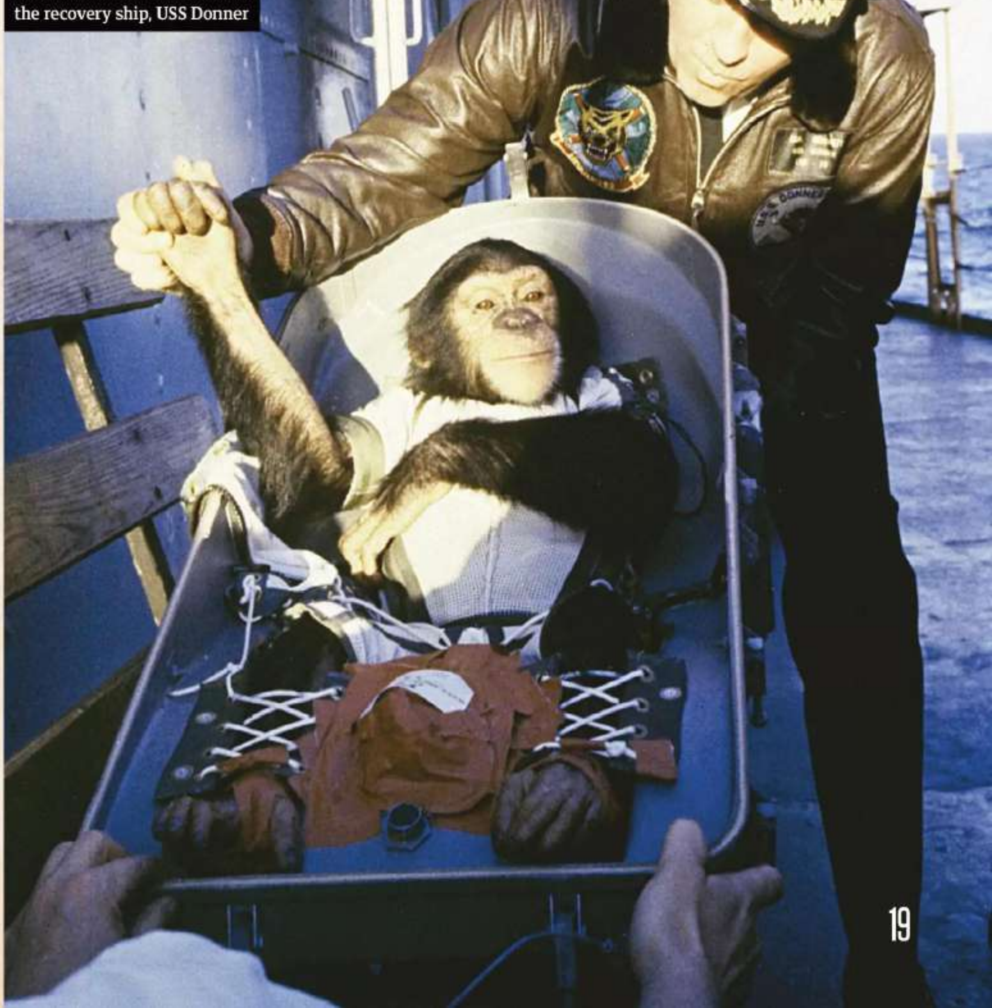
In 1646 Charles was imprisoned. He later managed to escape before being captured a second time and moved to Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight. He was then put on trial for treason, but he refused to accept defeat and was sentenced to be executed. He faced his execution straight-faced.

On that fateful day he asked for a thicker shirt as it was a cold winter's day and he didn't want his shivers to be interpreted as fear. He was then led to scaffolding outside of Whitehall Palace, where he addressed the crowd. He then asked the executioner if he could pray for a minute, and after a quiet pause Charles signalled he was ready and the executioner axed off the king's head in one clean swipe.

31 HAM BECOMES THE FIRST APE IN SPACE 1961

To test if astronauts could perform motor tasks in space, NASA chose to send a chimpanzee into space in a capsule due to their biological similarities. Chimps were tested by being trained to pull levers when certain sounds and lights would go off. Number 65 - or, as he's better known, Ham (short for Holloman Aerospace Medical Centre) - was chosen out of 40 chimps for the flight.

Launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, the experiment didn't go exactly according to plan, with the flight capsule losing pressure during the flight before landing further out into the Atlantic Ocean than expected. However, the test was an overall success as Ham survived, proving that the flight capsule's life-support systems worked and levers could be used during launch, weightlessness and in re-entry. Ham became a celebrity, featuring on magazine covers and TV shows before he was moved to the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC.



Ham after his flight shaking hands with the commander of the recovery ship, USS Donner

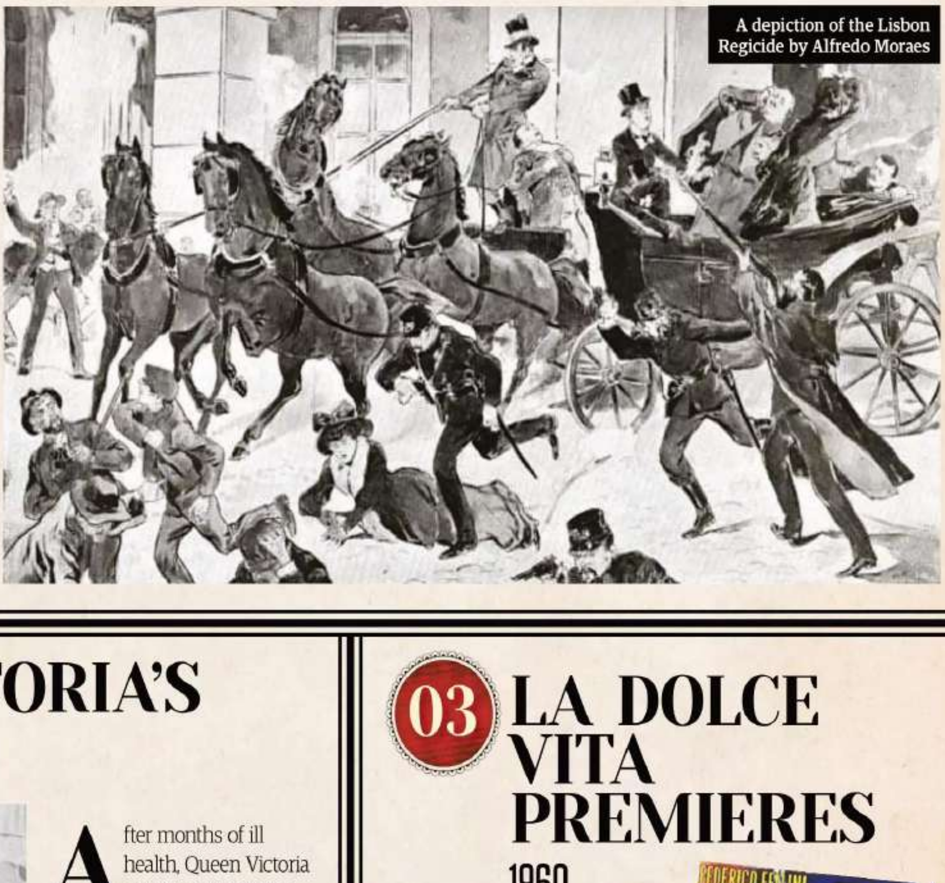
FEBRUARY

01

CARLOS I OF PORTUGAL ASSASSINATED 1908

February 1908 opened with bloodshed in Lisbon, Portugal. Popular among other European nations, King Carlos I had inspired dissent among his own people, with an increasingly republican movement that culminated on that fateful day. After a volatile time in parliament where forming a majority government had been very difficult, tensions had reached breaking point between the monarchists and the republicans.

As the royal family rode their carriage across the Terreiro do Paço, a square at the banks of the Tagus River, two assassins - Alfredo Luís da Costa and Manuel Buíça - took their aim and fired. Carlos and his son and heir, Prince Luís Filipe, lost their lives, while the coachman and Infante Dom Manuel, Duke of Beja, were both injured. The assassins, who had been aided by opposition forces in parliament, were quickly caught, but were killed by policemen before ever standing justice.



A depiction of the Lisbon Regicide by Alfredo Moraes

02

QUEEN VICTORIA'S FUNERAL 1901

Queen Victoria wrote detailed instructions for how she wanted her funeral to be carried out

After months of ill health, Queen Victoria would pass away in January 1901. In her will she insisted that her funeral be military, befitting her position as head of the army, and she was buried in white rather than the traditional black.

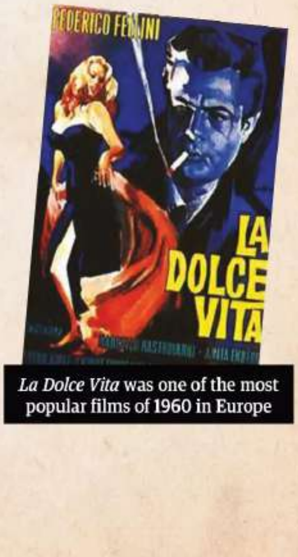
Her funeral procession travelled through London to the Albert Memorial Chapel where she lay in state for two days, accompanied before she was interred beside her beloved late husband.

03

LA DOLCE VITA PREMIERES

1960

Federico Fellini's famous drama film had its premiere on this day in 1960. Following a week in a gossip journalist's life in Rome, the film was a major hit at the time. It won the Palme d'Or at the 1960 Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for four Academy Awards, winning for best costumes.



La Dolce Vita was one of the most popular films of 1960 in Europe

Winston Churchill, Franklin D Roosevelt and Joseph Stalin photographed at the Yalta Conference

04

THE YALTA CONFERENCE BEGINS 1945

The Yalta Conference, also known as the Crimea Conference, was a week-long series of meetings between the leaders of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union - Franklin D Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Joseph Stalin - held in Yalta in Crimea, then part of the Soviet Union. Its aim was to make plans for the eventual reorganisation of Europe after defeating Germany, a victory that was now imminent after the liberation of Belgium and France.

Having previously met in 1943 in Tehran, Roosevelt initiated this second summit between the three leaders, which resulted in some historic developments. It set the stage for Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender, and laid out plans for its demilitarisation, Poland's future status and borders, the formation of democracies across Europe and for Soviet participation in the Pacific theatre of war against Japan. The conference was deemed a success and its key agreements would be instrumental in forming postwar Europe.

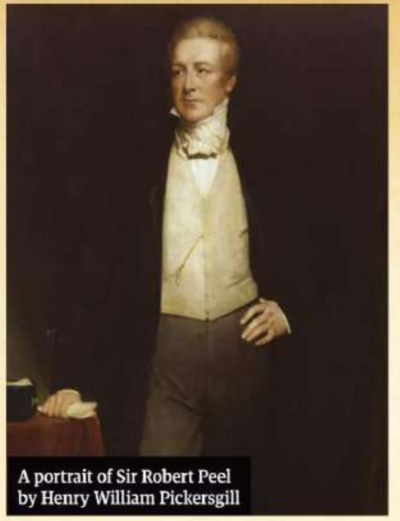
> "Its aim was to make plans for the eventual reorganisation of Europe after defeating Germany, a victory that was now imminent"

05

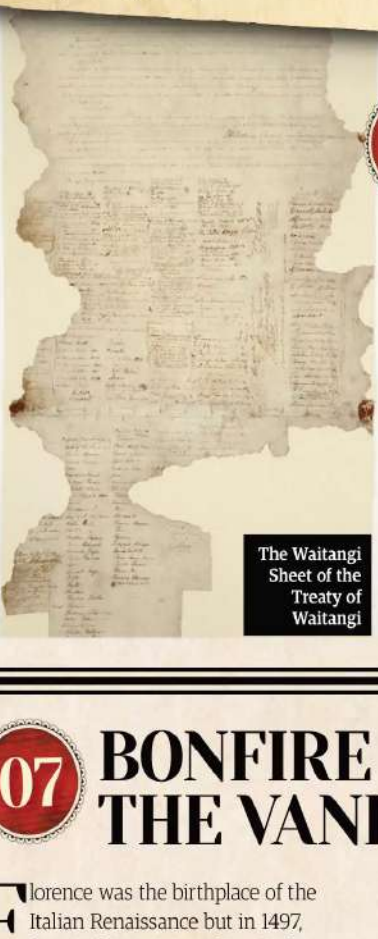
ROBERT PEEL BORN 1788

Sir Robert Peel, 2nd Baronet, born in Bury in Lancashire, was one of the founders of the modern British Conservative Party. Robert was involved in politics from an early age, becoming a Member of Parliament at only 21 years old. After serving in various junior ministerial roles he became home secretary in 1822, and there he reformed criminal law and created the modern police force, forming a police structure that still largely persists today.

In 1834 Robert was one of the leading founders of the new Conservative Party, and took office as Prime Minister on 10 December 1834, becoming the first prime minister from an industrial business background instead of one of aristocracy. Although his first premiership only lasted about six months, he became prime minister again in 1841, serving a five-year term.



A portrait of Sir Robert Peel by Henry William Pickersgill



The Waitangi Sheet of the Treaty of Waitangi

06

TREATY OF WAITANGI 1840

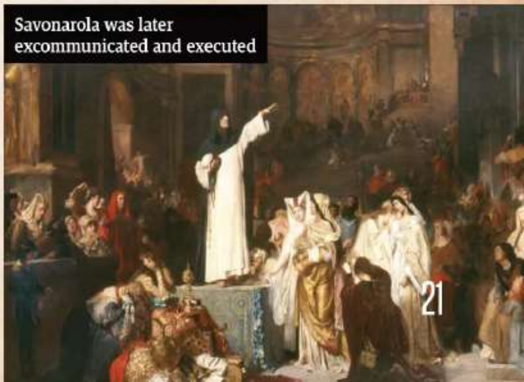
For a long time New Zealand had been left unclaimed by European colonists, despite frequent landings by Dutch, French and British explorers and forces. However, in the 19th century Maori tribes were under more pressure, and after declaring independence with the aid of official British Resident for the islands James Busby in 1835, the British Crown started to act more purposefully to establish a colony. After successful negotiations with Maori chiefs, the Treaty of Waitangi, drafted in both English and Maori, was signed in 1840. It secured vital rights and the preservation of cultural heritage for Maori tribes, a heritage that still lives on today.

07

BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES 1497

Florence was the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance but in 1497, fanatical Dominican friar Girolamo Savonarola convinced the citizens to burn many of their masterpieces. Books, paintings, fine clothing, decorative carpets and even cosmetics were rounded up by Savonarola's followers and piled high in the Piazza della Signoria. Representatives of each Florentine district symbolically lit the pyre, which was topped with an effigy of Satan, while women wearing white robes, olive branch garlands and red crosses danced around it. Savonarola claimed that the city's 'vanities' were distracting from religious duties. The friar prophesied God would punish them by sending an apocalyptic flood in 1500 if they didn't repent.

Savonarola was later excommunicated and executed

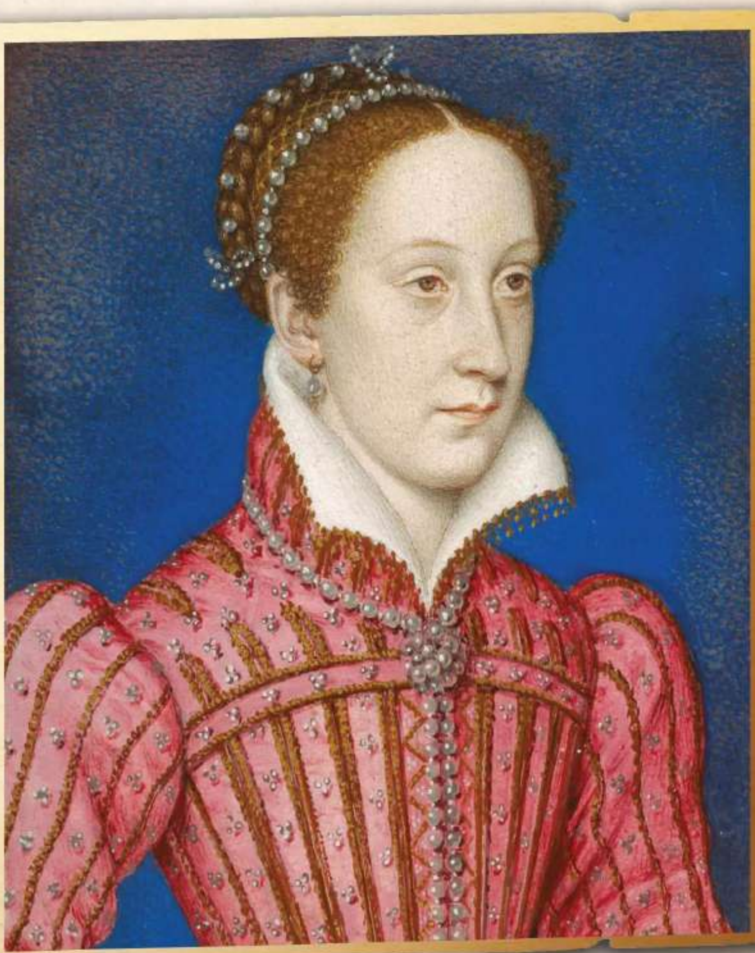


08 EXECUTION OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS 1587

Mary's life was an eventful and turbulent one almost from the moment of her birth in 1542. Born prematurely to King James V of Scotland and his French second wife, Mary of Guise, she was James' only legitimate child to survive him, setting her up as the heir to the Scottish throne.

From only six months of age, Mary was promised to Henry VIII's son and heir Edward with the prospect of a union of Scotland and England, but political strife scuppered those plans. Instead she was promised to Dauphin Francis, the son of French king Henry II. She moved to France at five years old but when she refused to ratify a treaty recognising Elizabeth I as the heir to Mary I of England, tensions between Scotland and England escalated even further, resulting in a plot for Mary to take the English crown in addition to the Scottish one.

She was arrested in 1567, and after over 19 years in custody and an eventual sentencing for plotting to assassinate Elizabeth I in 1586, she was executed on the morning of 8 February 1587. It took three axe blows to sever her head from her neck; the first missed and the second only partially severed it.



Mary became queen when she was only six days old

Princess Margaret often provoked controversy in her life

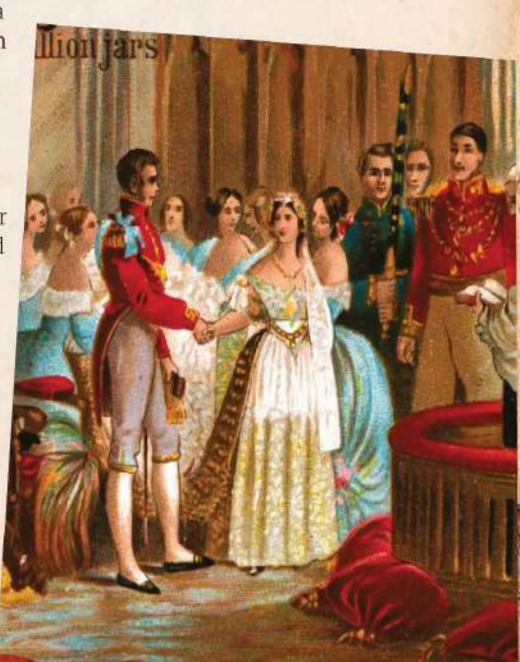
09 PRINCESS MARGARET DIES 2002

Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, was the younger daughter of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Elizabeth II's only sibling. Born in 1930, she lived an eventful life not without controversy, but her later years were fraught with illness. She died in King Edward VII's Hospital in London after suffering a stroke that led to cardiac failure.

10 QUEEN VICTORIA MARRIES PRINCE ALBERT 1840

Queen Victoria had already taken the throne before getting married and to avoid having to live with her mother, who she didn't get along with, Prime Minister Lord Melbourne suggested that she could get married. After initially finding the suggestion shocking, Victoria soon found mutual affection with her first cousin Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Falling in love with the handsome and erudite prince, she was the one to propose to him only five days after he had arrived at Windsor Castle. Only four months after the proposal, Victoria and Albert were married in a resplendent ceremony in the Chapel Royal of St James's Palace.

Accompanied by 12 bridesmaids, who carried the 5.5-metre (18-foot)-long train of her wedding dress, designed by William Dyce, she was married to him in the presence of both their families. Albert would then go on to be an important political adviser to Queen Victoria, as well as her biggest love.



11 NELSON MANDELA RELEASED FROM PRISON 1990

Nelson Mandela is pictured here with his wife moments after his unconditional release from Victor Verster Prison in South Africa, where he'd been incarcerated for 27 years for sabotage and conspiracy to overthrow the government. He was driven to Cape Town along a route lined by thousands of his supporters.

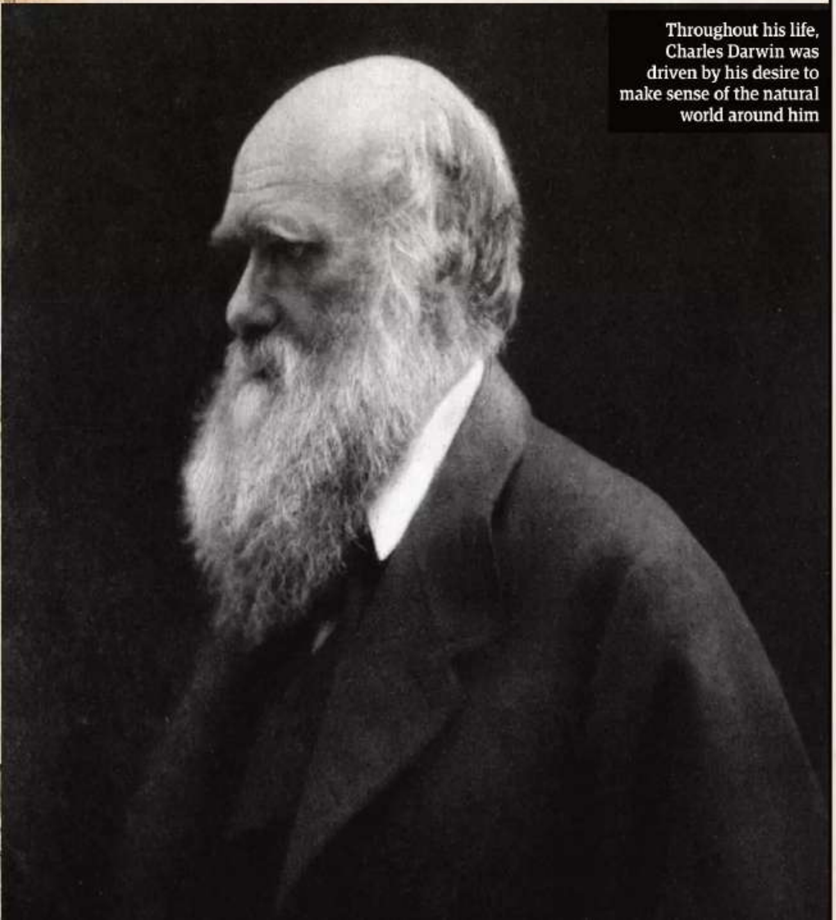
Following release Mandela gave a speech to 100,000 people at Soccer City, Johannesburg

12 CHARLES DARWIN BORN 1809

Charles Robert Darwin was an English naturalist, geologist and biologist who would leave his mark on history with his contributions to the science of evolution. He was born in Shrewsbury in England to wealthy doctor and financier Robert Darwin and his wife Susannah. Darwin soon showed himself to be a boy of great intellect, with a special interest in natural history.

He briefly studied medicine before getting a degree from Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1831. His journey on HMS Beagle and his subsequent account of it made him a popular author, but his observations during that voyage compelled him to study how wildlife seemed to diversify and spread, eventually coming up with his theory of natural selection.

His book *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859, would go on to form the basis of today's broader theory of evolution, with evolution by natural selection often called Darwinism. The impact he had on scientific studies in the 19th century and to the modern day has been immense and enduring, and today he is widely considered one of the most influential scientists in all of human history. After he died in 1882, he was honoured with a state funeral in Westminster Abbey.

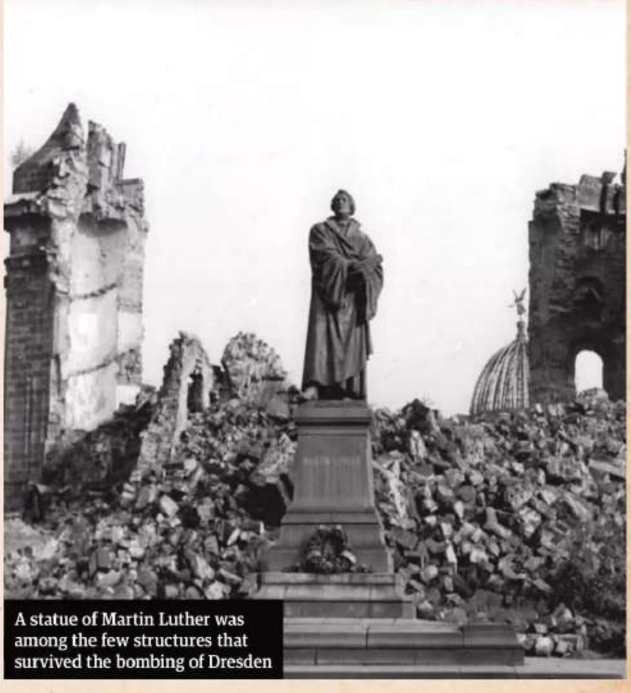


Throughout his life, Charles Darwin was driven by his desire to make sense of the natural world around him

13 THE BOMBING OF DRESDEN 1945

One of the most dramatic and controversial military missions of World War II was by joint British and US air forces on the German city of Dresden, a cultural landmark surrounded by extensive industrial areas that manufactured weaponry and material for Nazi forces. Over the course of four raids between 13 and 15 February, a combined total of 1,296 heavy bombers from the British Royal Air Force and the United States Army Air Forces, supported by almost 800 P-51 Mustang planes, dropped a staggering 3,900 tons of bombs and incendiary devices on the city, which was only defended by 28 Messerschmitt Bf 110 aircraft.

The German Luftwaffe was crippled by loss of its radar system and a serious shortage of pilots and fuel. Between 22,700 and 25,000 people are thought to have been killed in the devastating raids. Most of them were ordinary citizens, causing great debate about the morality of the attack, a debate that still rages on among historians and descendants of the attackers and victims today. Most of central Dresden was engulfed in fire from the bombing, leaving it desolate and unrecognisable by the end of the air raids.



A statue of Martin Luther was among the few structures that survived the bombing of Dresden

14

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE 1929

The late 1920s were a volatile time in Chicago, Illinois. With opposing gangs vying for control of the city's organised crime scene during the Prohibition era, violence had become a commonplace occurrence. However, what transpired on the morning of Valentine's Day 1929 would send chills down the entire nation's spine.

Seven members of the Irish North Side Gang were lined up against a warehouse wall in Lincoln Park and executed. The assailants would never be identified, although Al Capone's Italian South Side Gang members were long suspected, as were members of the Chicago Police Department who may have had motive to avenge the killing of a police officer's son.

A re-enactment of the massacre

15

ROOSEVELT SURVIVES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT 1933

Just a few weeks before his inauguration, Franklin D Roosevelt was travelling through Miami with the mayor of Chicago when he decided to give an impromptu speech. There, Giuseppe Zangara joined the crowd. He had recently bought a handgun, and fired at Roosevelt from the crowd. He was quickly overpowered by people around him, but not before he had shot five people, two of whom would later die. Roosevelt was unhurt.

FLORIDA
24996
A mugshot of Giuseppe Zangara taken after his assassination attempt on Roosevelt

16

FIDEL CASTRO SWORN IN AS CUBAN PRIME MINISTER 1959

Fidel Castro on a visit to the United States shortly after taking power in Cuba

Fidel Castro was sworn in as prime minister of Cuba after his guerrilla campaign had forced the Batista regime out of power, formally beginning a decades-long communist rule in the Caribbean island state.

17

GERONIMO DIES 1909

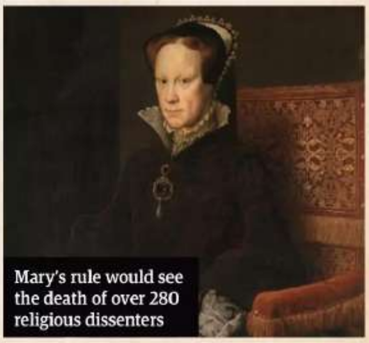
The famous Bedonkohe Apache leader Geronimo, best known for his guerrilla raids against US and Mexican military forces between 1850 and 1886, mainly in northern Mexico, New Mexico and Arizona, died from pneumonia exacerbated by a horse-riding accident aged 79.

Geronimo was a prominent leader in the Native American struggle against US and Mexican invasion into their territory

18

MARY I BORN 1516

After several miscarriages, Catherine of Aragon finally gave birth to a healthy baby, the first child of Henry VIII. While the monarch had been keen to have a son, his wish didn't come true for Catherine had given birth to a girl, Mary. A fierce Catholic, she would go on to rule England from 1553 to 1558 and be known as 'Bloody Mary'.


Mary's rule would see the death of over 280 religious dissenters

19

BATTLE OF IWO JIMA BEGINS 1945

In the Pacific theatre of war during World War II, the small island of Iwo Jima played a key role. Effectively serving as an early warning system for Japan, they placed a force of around 20,000 men at Iwo Jima, south of the main islands of Japan, to slow the advance of the Americans.

Following ten days of heavy air bombardment, in the early hours of the morning on 19 February 1945 a massive carrier task force led by Vice Admiral Marc A Mitscher arrived off the Iwo Jima coast. At 8.59am, the first wave of Marines landed on the black beaches on the island's southeastern coast.

After an unexpectedly heavy slog to get off the ash-covered beaches, a massive battle broke out. The beach was bombarded by artillery, and those further inland encountered a thick grid of bunkers and extensive cave systems filled with resolute Japanese forces.

Of the 110,000 US Marines, soldiers, navy corpsmen and air force personnel, over 6,800 would die on Iwo Jima, with another 19,200 wounded. However, the losses on the Japanese side were even more staggering.

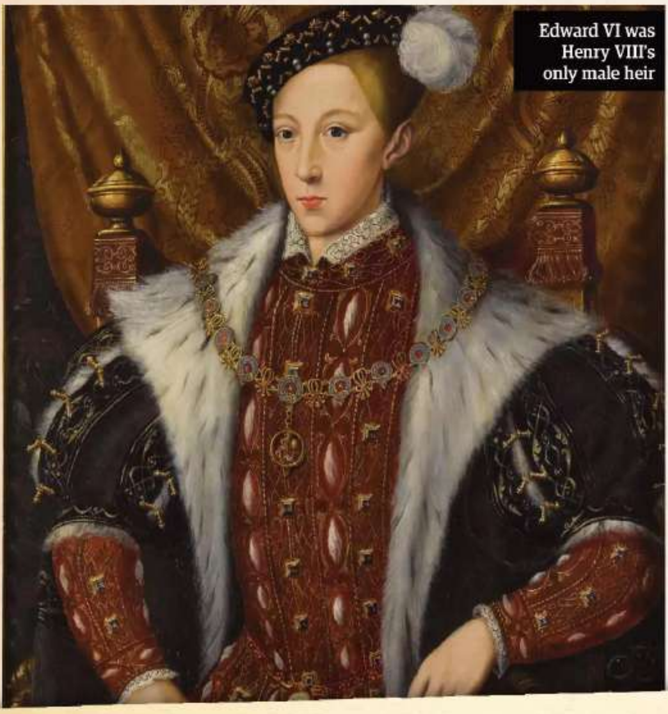
Of the 21,000 troops based there, between 17,800 and 18,375 were either dead or missing after the 35-day battle. The American forces eventually captured the island on the strength of their vastly superior numbers and firepower, setting the rapid retreat of Japanese forces from the Pacific into motion, and leading to their eventual defeat in World War II.

> “The beach was bombarded by artillery, and those further inland encountered a thick grid of bunkers and extensive cave systems filled with resolute Japanese forces”

Joe Rosenthal's iconic image of US Marines raising the flag atop Mount Suribachi on Iwo Jima

20 CORONATION OF EDWARD VI 1547

Edward VI was the son of Henry VIII and Jane Seymour, and the first monarch in England's history to be raised as a Protestant after Henry VIII's famous dispute with the Catholic Church led to England splitting from Rome. He was only nine years old when his father died, so the kingdom was to be governed by a regent until he would come of age. However, it never came to that as Edward fell seriously ill and died in 1553, only 15 years old.


Edward VI was Henry VIII's only male heir

21

ASSASSINATION OF MALCOLM X

1965

Malcolm X in 1964, a year before his assassination

Malcolm X was one of the most famous civil rights activists of 1960s America and an influential leader of the increasingly powerful movement Nation of Islam (NOI). However, after falling out with his fellow NOI leaders, Malcolm X was assassinated by its members while preparing a speech at the Organization of Afro-American Unity, which he had founded a year before. He was shot in the chest with a shotgun and then several more times by co-conspirators firing semi-automatic handguns. He is still regarded as one of the most influential African-Americans in history.

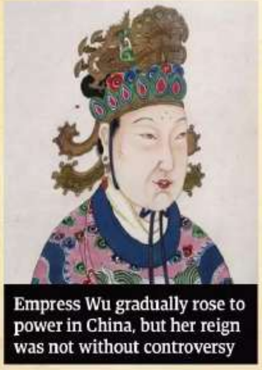
22 EMPRESS WU REMOVED FROM POWER 705

Wu Zetian, known as Empress Wu, was the only ruling empress in the history of Imperial China. She was a concubine to Emperor Taizong of the Tang dynasty and after his death she married his son Gaozong, becoming empress consort from 655 to 683.

When Gaozong had a massive stroke in 660, Wu became the leader of China in all but name. When Gaozong died in 683 she became empress dowager, but was then made empress regnant in 690, the all-powerful leader of China. She was the first - and last - member of the Zhou Dynasty.

Wu was influential in many major decisions impacting the empire, including the elevation of Buddhism above Taoism, but soon after she took sole control, problems started piling up. This included an increasingly powerful secret police force, military defeats against the Tibetan Empire and a rebellion by Khitan chieftains, as well as the thorny issue of the imperial succession.

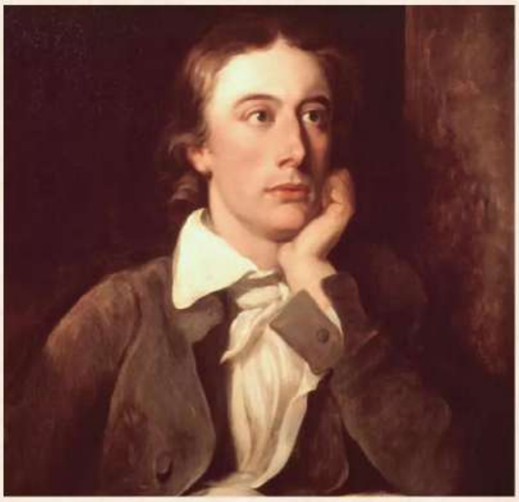
Eventually, after falling ill several times in her late life, Wu was forced to abdicate her throne to Li Xian, her son, who would become Emperor Zhongzong, resuming the Tang dynasty's power over China. Wu finally died in December 705.


Empress Wu gradually rose to power in China, but her reign was not without controversy

23 JOHN KEATS DIES 1821

John Keats was one of the most famous English Romantic poets, but during his short lifetime he only managed to publish three volumes of poetry. It's estimated he only sold about 200 copies of those volumes while he was alive. He died of tuberculosis in 1821, aged just 25.

Today, however, he is one of the most studied and revered poets of that era, with numerous volumes of his work and studies thereof published throughout the 20th and 21st centuries.


A posthumous portrait of Keats by William Hilton

24 BATTLE OF HUE IS DECIDED 1968

The Battle of Hue stands out as one of the longest and bloodiest battles of the Vietnam War. 11 battalions of South Vietnamese ARVN forces, four US Army battalions and three US Marine Corps battalions squared off against ten PAVN and Viet Cong battalions in the city of Hue.

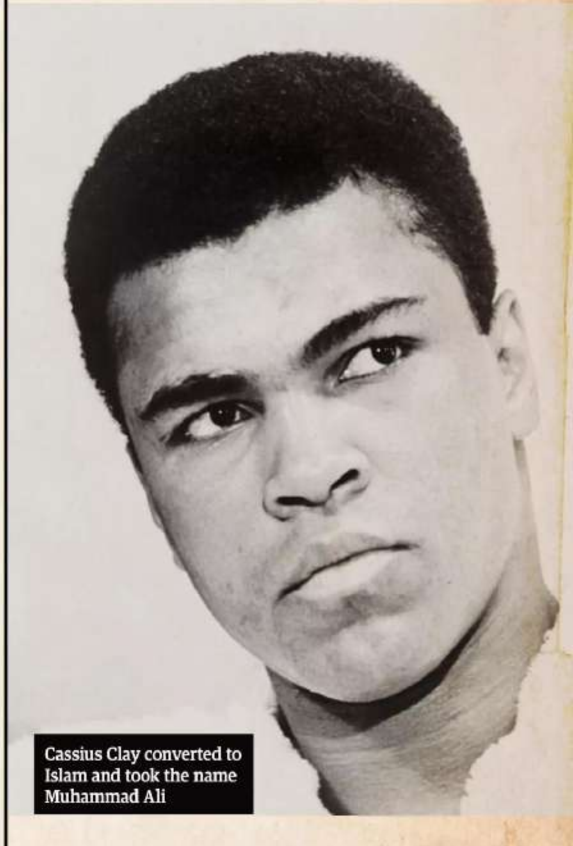
Starting on 30 January, the battle formed a part of the larger Tet Offensive by North Vietnamese forces, which aimed to defeat the US forces in the south. Hue was close to the Vietnamese Demilitarised Zone, so was one of the main targets of the Offensive.

Quickly managing to occupy most of the city, it took a month of intense, house-to-house fighting through the city by US and South Vietnamese forces to ultimately drive the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong back out of it.

The battle was all but won on 24 February, although pockets of fighting remained until 3 March. The damage was devastating, destroying most of the city, and the death toll was even more harrowing, with 668 US and ARVN troops and somewhere between 2,400 and 8,133 PAVN and VC troops killed. Even more tragically, over 5,000 innocent civilians lost their lives.

Wounded US Marines in the Battle of Hue

25 CASSIUS CLAY BECOMES WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION 1964


Cassius Clay converted to Islam and took the name Muhammad Ali

Then aged only 22 and still known by his birth name, Cassius Clay, Muhammad Ali became the world heavyweight boxing champion for the first time. He faced off against heavy favourite Sonny Liston, who was widely considered near-invincible in the boxing world, while he was coming off a sobering defeat by Henry Cooper.

After a hotly contested six rounds at Miami Beach, Liston retired at the start of the seventh round, giving Clay a shock win. So shocking was the result that Florida state attorney Richard Gerstein launched a match-fixing inquiry. Clay had also been fined for disgraceful conduct during the weigh-in before the match, so rumours swirled that the WBA would strip him of the title. However, no evidence of match-fixing was found and Clay was allowed to keep the title, which he retained after a rematch with Liston a year later where he knocked him down in the first round.

26

GALILEO BANNED FROM TEACHING HELIOCENTRISM 1616

When Galileo Galilei suggested the Earth wasn't, in fact, the centre of the universe, and that it rotated around the Sun, it rubbed the religious establishment up the wrong way.

For centuries, the Catholic Church had enforced a view of the world that placed the Earth at the centre of the universe, underlining not only the power of God, but also the central role of humans in the world. Heliocentric theories were therefore considered not only false, but inherently blasphemous. Galileo not only studied the stars, he imparted his knowledge onto his students too, which angered Rome greatly.

On 26 February 1616, Galileo was called to the residence of Cardinal Bellarmine, who brought an order from Pope Paul V to abandon his opinion that the Earth rotated around the Sun. Despite that forceful order, Galileo continued his studies, albeit without teaching heliocentrism as a physical truth.

He managed to further anger Pope Paul V's successor, who placed him under house arrest for the final nine years of his life. Of course, science would eventually prove Galileo right - not only does the Earth rotate around the Sun, but the Sun in turn rotates around the galactic centre of the Milky Way.

Galileo was a teacher at the University of Padua

ROUND AND ROUND

The concept of orbits was already well understood, but theories differed. Geocentrism plotted the course of the planets from Earth's perspective over a number of years, resulting in a curly orbit.

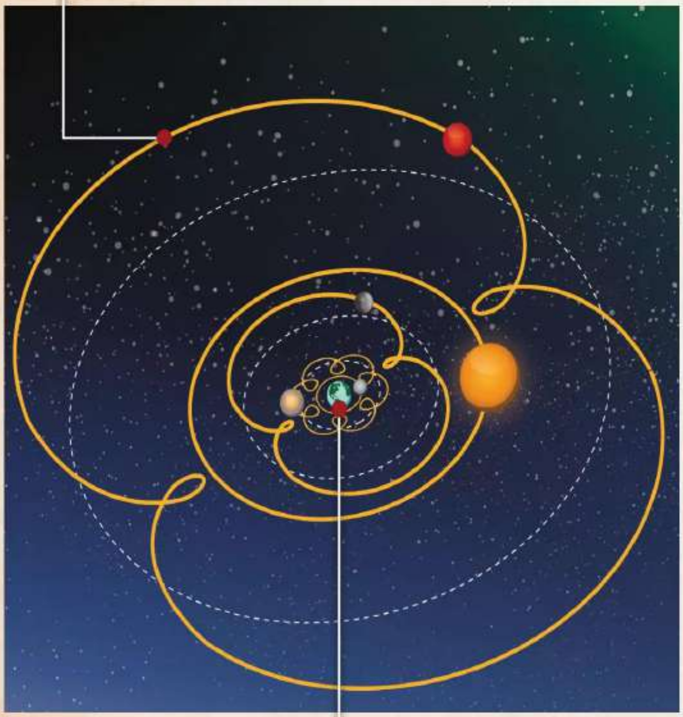
HERE COMES THE SUN

Of course, we now know that planets circle the Sun, not the Earth. By placing the Sun at the centre of the universe, we are able to observe that the planets move in an elliptical path around it.

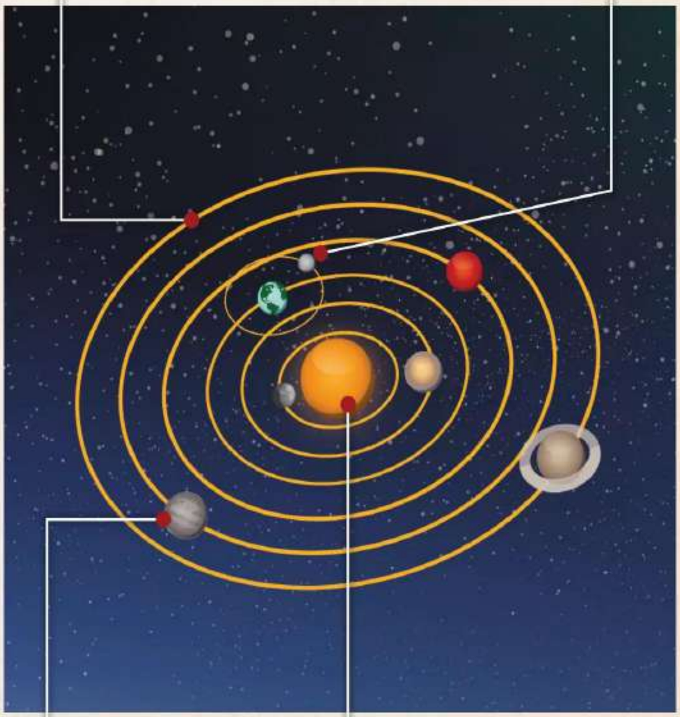
MOON GAZING

By observing the moons of other planets, astronomers found evidence for the heliocentric theory in that the Earth could both move and keep the Moon in its orbit at the same time.

GEOCENTRISM



HELIOCENTRISM



CENTRE OF ATTENTION

People assumed that the Earth was at the centre of the universe because this is how the Catholic Church interpreted the Biblical Scriptures. Supporters of Copernicus tried to prove this theory was incorrect.

MOONS OF JUPITER

The arrival of the telescope in 1609 allowed scientists to observe the Solar System much closer than they were previously able to. As Galileo observed moons orbiting Jupiter, it disproved the idea that all celestial bodies revolved around Earth.

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Geocentrism dictated that the stars moved around the Earth. However, the stars - including the Sun - are fixed. It is, in fact, the rotation of the Earth on its axis that makes it appear as if the stars move.

George photographed in the year of his coronation as king of Greece

27 GEORGE I OF GREECE SURVIVES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT 1898

Despite ruling over a large territorial expansion during his reign, George I, king of Greece from 1863 to 1913, was far from a universally popular figure.

George was originally a Danish prince, born Vilhelm in 1845, but in a move characterising the interlinked nature of European aristocracy, he was elected as king of Greece by the Greek National Assembly in 1863, then only 17 years old. His reign was characterised by a dramatic expansion of Greek territory as he gained the Ionian Islands from Britain, Thessaly from the Ottoman Empire, Greek Macedonia in the Balkan Wars and West Thrace from Bulgaria, to name a few territories.

Over his reign, during which he also lost a fair few battles and wars, he gained quite the number of enemies, which first came to a head in February 1898. Returning from a beach trip at Phaleron, George and his daughter were attacked by two riflemen.

In a show of selfless bravery he jumped to shield his daughter from the gunmen, who failed in their attempt, though they injured the coachman driving them. George I was ultimately assassinated in 1913 while on a walk through Thessaloniki.

28 DNA'S DOUBLE-HELIX STRUCTURE DISCOVERED 1953

Francis Crick, pictured, won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1962 along with James Watson and Maurice Wilkins

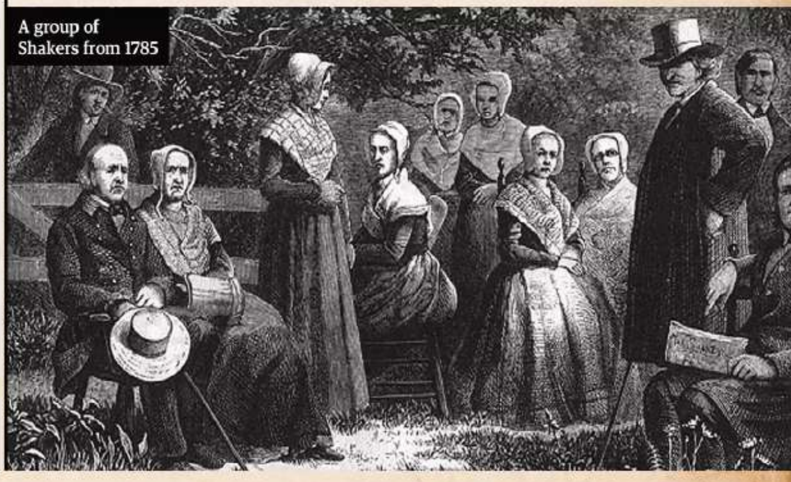
On the morning of 28 February 1953, British physicist Francis Crick and American bacteriologist James Watson, aged 37 and 25 respectively, discovered the double-helix structure of deoxyribonucleic acid, also known as DNA, the basic ingredient of life.

Although DNA had been known about since 1869, its structure and function remained a mystery for over 80 years, until Crick and Watson's discovery. Quite unusually for a world-altering scientific development, Crick loudly made the announcement in The Eagle, a pub close to the University of Cambridge where they had made the discovery.

29 ANN LEE BORN 1736

Ann Lee was born on this day in Manchester, England, but she would make a name for herself in the British colonies of North America. In 1774 she emigrated to New York with a small group of followers, and it was in the town of Niskayuna where she set the foundations for the Shaker Church in America.

Firmly believing in Christ's second coming, the Shakers set themselves apart by worshipping flamboyantly through dancing and shaking. Her followers eventually became convinced "Mother" Ann Lee herself was the second coming of Christ, elevating her status to that of a deity.

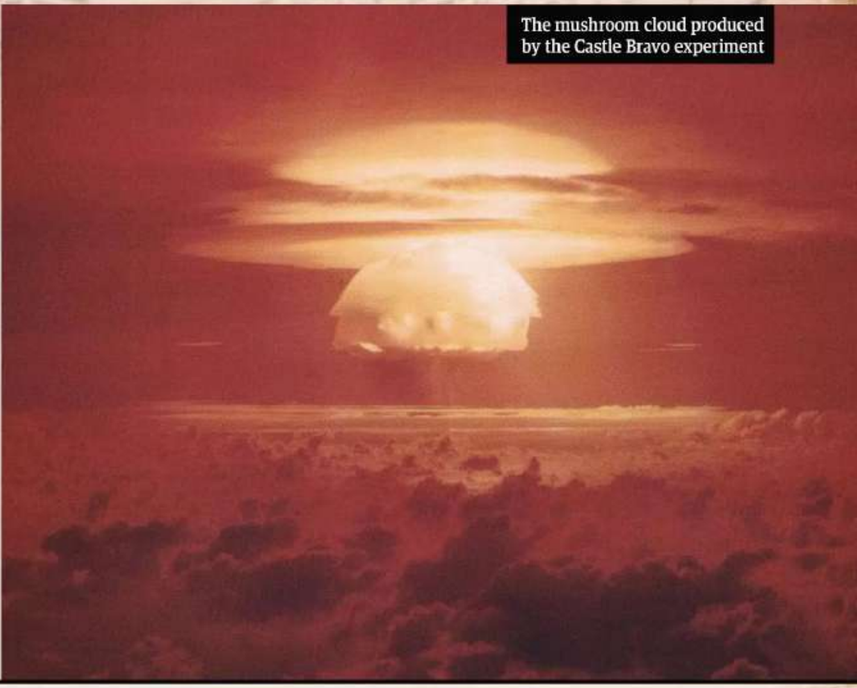


A group of Shakers from 1785

MARCH

01 DETONATION OF CASTLE BRAVO 1954

At Bikini Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, the United States carried out its largest nuclear detonation with Castle Bravo, a high-yield thermonuclear weapon, as part of Operation Castle. The Bravo experiment used the 'Shrimp' device, which was fuelled with lithium deuteride and weighed approximately 23,500 pounds. The scientists had predicted that the explosion would yield six megatons of TNT but it when it was detonated, the Shrimp actually produced a yield of 15 megatons of TNT. The radiation fallout affected many people including islanders in the nearby atolls, a Japanese fishing crew and servicemen of the US Navy. The incident resulted in international backlash against atmospheric nuclear testing, with the fallout of radioactive material spreading across the globe. The islanders themselves had not been evacuated, and the detonation of the USA's largest nuclear explosion caused radiation sickness among them.



The mushroom cloud produced by the Castle Bravo experiment

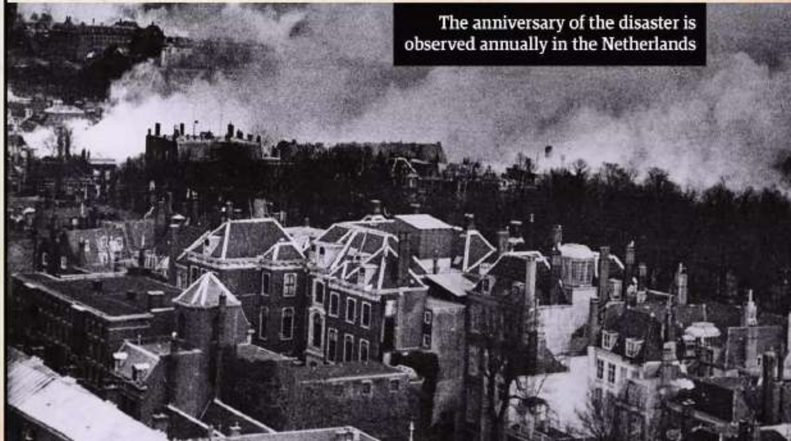
02 KING OF THE WORLD 1933

The box office giant *King Kong* wowed audiences when it premiered in New York City over 80 years ago on 2 March 1933. Director Merian C Cooper was so adamant that he didn't want to use a man in a gorilla suit when making his seminal movie that he brought in special effects wizard Willis O'Brien, who pioneered numerous techniques to bring the silver-screen silverback to life. These included stop-motion animation, matte paintings and even the use of full-scale models. The iconic movie changed the face of special effects and movie-making forever, making films more immersive.

The special effects in 1933's iconic *King Kong* changed the face of cinema

03 BOMBING OF BEZUIDENHOUT 1945

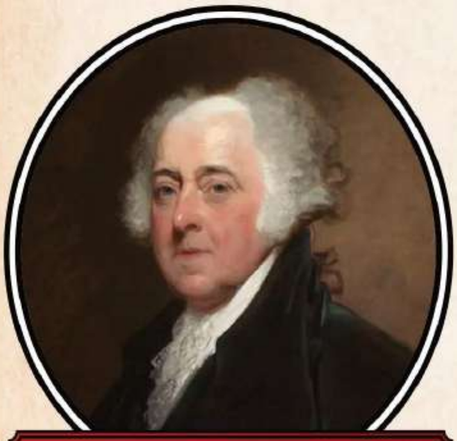
Britain's Royal Air Force made a disastrous mistake when they accidentally bombed the Bezuidenhout neighbourhood, located in the city of The Hague in the Netherlands. The target was supposed to be the nearby neighbourhood of Haagse Bos, where the Germans had installed launching facilities that had been used to attack England. However, the pilots had been given the wrong coordinates, while fog and clouds obscured their vision - once they realised their mistake, they dropped flyers across the neighbourhood to apologise. Nonetheless, their actions cost hundreds of people their lives and left tens of thousands homeless.



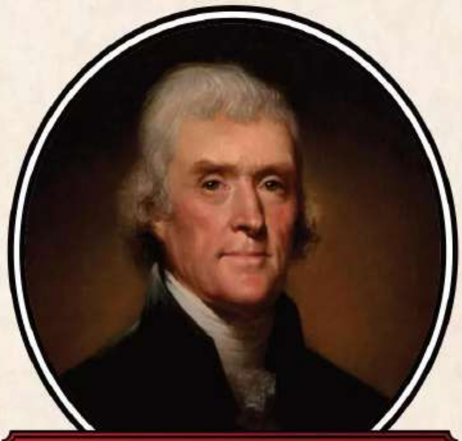
The anniversary of the disaster is observed annually in the Netherlands

04

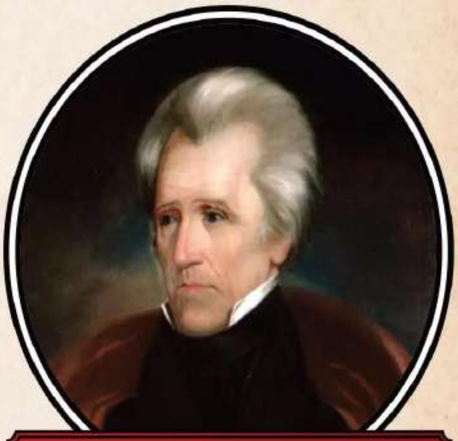
INAUGURATIONS OF AMERICAN PRESIDENTS



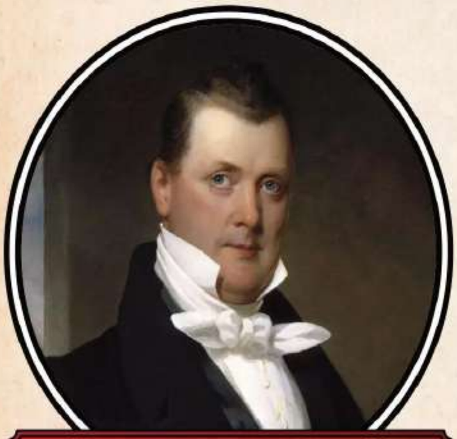
JOHN ADAMS
1797



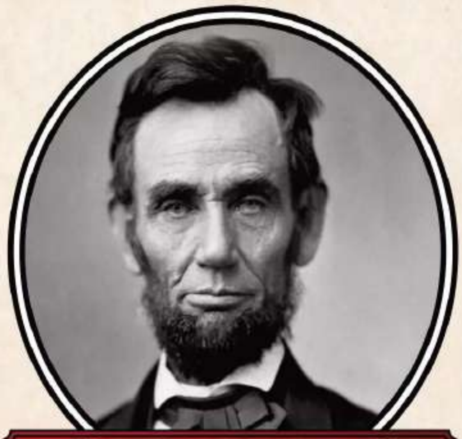
THOMAS JEFFERSON
1801



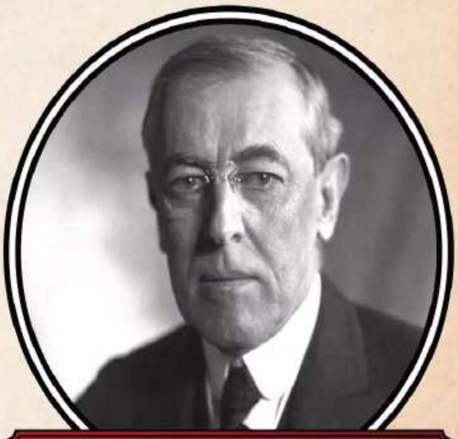
ANDREW JACKSON
1829



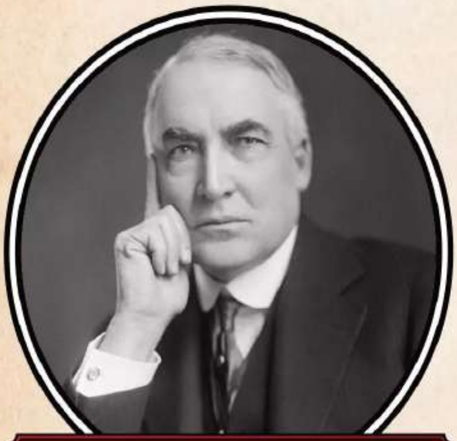
JAMES BUCHANAN
1857



ABRAHAM LINCOLN
1861

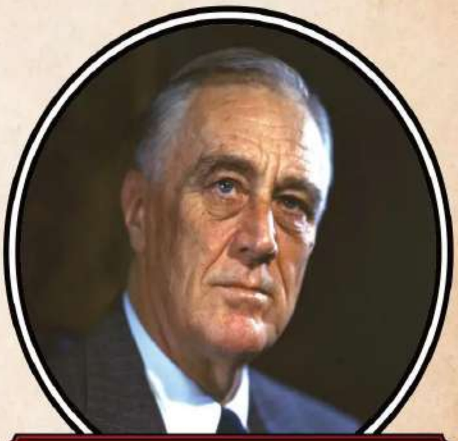


WOODROW WILSON
1913



WARREN G HARDING
1921

CALVIN COOLIDGE
1925



FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT
1933

05

363

AN ILL-FATED CAMPAIGN

The Roman emperor Julian set off from the Ancient Greek city of Antioch with 90,000 men in an ambitious attack on the Sassanid Empire. Although the campaign was initially successful, Julian was wounded and died.

1770

THE BOSTON MASSACRE

After being provoked by an angry mob, British troops shot dead five Americans in Boston, Massachusetts. This event would later contribute to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War.

1933

A GROWING POWER

At the Reichstag elections, Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party received 43.9 per cent of the vote. Although failing to get a clear majority, this result allowed the passing of the Enabling Act and the establishment of a dictatorship.

1936

A LEGENDARY FLIGHT

What has become a much-loved aircraft for its role during World War II, the Supermarine Spitfire took off on its first flight in the United Kingdom.

1946

THE IRON CURTAIN IS DRAWN

In a speech at Westminster College, Missouri, Winston Churchill first coined the phrase 'Iron Curtain' to describe the boundary dividing Europe in two. It would later be used throughout the Cold War.

1953

DEATH OF A DICTATOR

Joseph Stalin, leader of the Soviet Union, died aged 74. Found lying on his back on the floor of his bedroom after suffering a suspected stroke, doctors attempted to save his life but he died a few days later.

1960

AN ICONIC SHOT

Cuban photographer Alberto Korda snapped a photo of Marxist revolutionary Che Guevara as he attended a memorial service. It later became one of the most iconic photographs in the world.

1968

KONY 2012

The organisation Invisible Children launched its Stop Kony campaign with the release of the short film *Kony 2012*, with the intent of encouraging the arrest of African militia leader Joseph Kony.

06

BATTLE OF THE ALAMO 1836

The Mexican Army's assault on the Mission San Antonio de Valero inadvertently began when an overly enthusiastic soldier shouted in the pre-dawn darkness: "Viva Santa Anna!" The cry spread through the ranks and bugles officially sounded the attack. Bathed in moonlight, 1,000 Mexicans surged towards the old Spanish mission-turned-fort known as the Alamo.

'Santa Anna' was Antonio López de Santa Anna, a Mexican general whose fight for independence from Spain was rewarded when he was elected president of Mexico in 1833. Unfortunately, what began as a promise to unite the nation soon turned into chaos. During his second year in power, he revoked Mexico's constitution, purged the state militia and crushed all opposition. He then turned his attention north.

A decade before Santa Anna came to power, the Mexican government had allowed Americans to immigrate to the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas, and thousands did. However, Santa Anna didn't like the fact that the 'norteamericanos' heavily outnumbered the Mexicans in the state and feared that the US would try to annex it. He deliberately provoked the settlers, known as Texians, into rebellion by demanding they convert to Catholicism, enforcing a previously ignored stipulation in their original immigration contracts.

The first shots of the Texan Revolution were fired in the town of Gonzales on 2 October 1835 when Texians fired on a Mexican force under General Martín de Cos. The Mexicans retreated to San Antonio de Béxar, where the Alamo was located, but the Texians drove them out two months later. Rather than return home, some of the Texians garrisoned the Alamo.

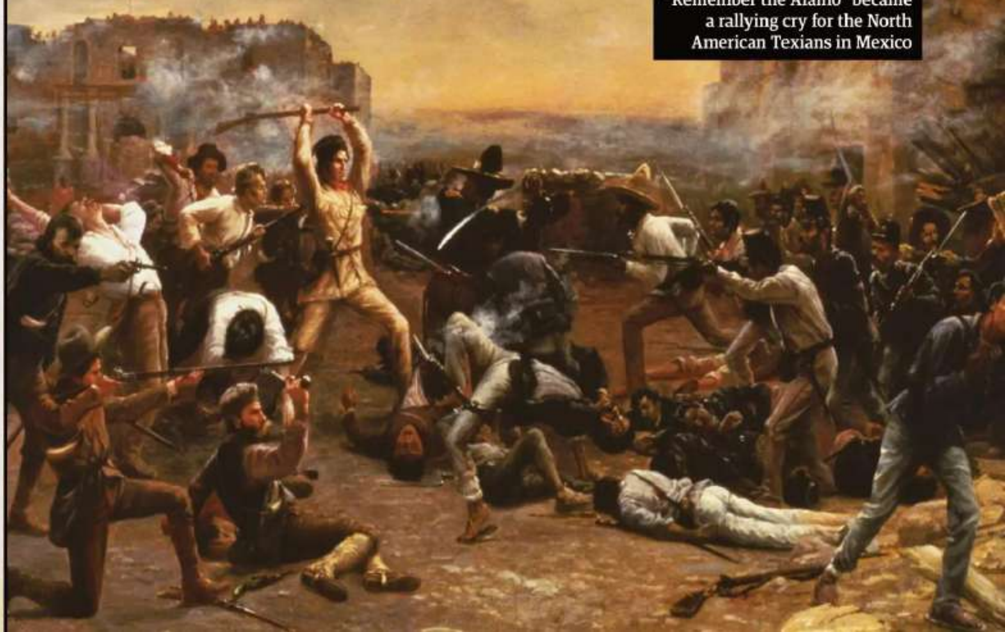
Following de Cos' defeat, Santa Anna led a 6,000-strong army to stamp out the rebellion, besieging the Alamo on 23 February 1836. When the troops there refused to surrender, Santa Anna ordered his men to raise a blood-red flag within sight of the fort. Its message was simple: no quarter.

When Santa Anna arrived, the Alamo's small garrison was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel William Travis, a Texian army officer. Santa Anna's first move was to have his men dig trenches to protect his artillery as it was moved closer to the fort in order to breach or weaken the north wall in preparation for an infantry assault. It was a slow process, but by 5 March they had advanced the guns to within 75 yards of their target. Travis' men did their best to shore up the walls each night.

Because he probably feared the arrival of a relief army, Santa Anna issued orders for a pre-dawn assault on 6 March, even though the north wall was still intact. The initial attack stalled due to the fort's defensive fire, but when Santa Anna committed his reinforcements, they overpowered the Americans.

Traditional reports hold that no prisoners were taken. However, a contemporary account by Mexican Lieutenant Colonel Enrique de la Peña - a supposed eyewitness - that surfaced more than a century after the battle claims that seven prisoners were taken by Santa Anna and executed by sword. Traditionalists hold that it does not change the fact that all of the defenders were slain that morning.

'Remember the Alamo' became a rallying cry throughout the Texian Army. On 21 April 1836, they won the Battle of San Jacinto, captured Santa Anna and forced him back across the Rio Grande, assuring Texas' independence.



"Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for the North American Texians in Mexico

07

LAND SPEED RECORD SET 1935

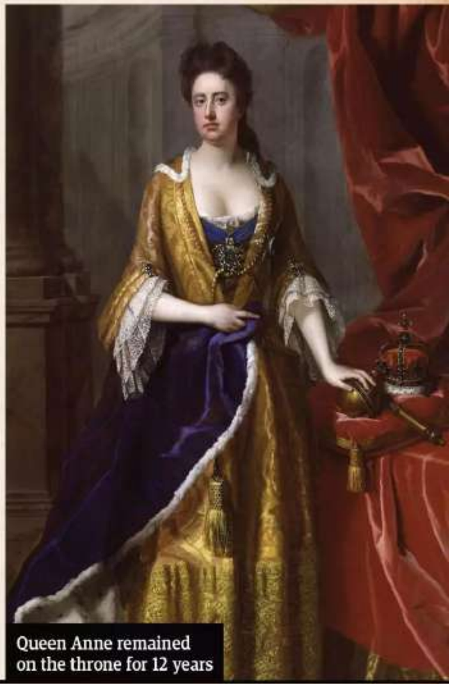
Sir Malcolm Campbell broke the land speed record again in his newly rebuilt car, the Blue Bird, at Daytona Beach. The car had been given a more rectangular body, fitted with airbrakes and as well as improved with better traction. His new record was set at 276.82 miles per hour, once again breaking the records he had been setting since 1924, although the sand on the beach had hindered the speed of the Blue Bird. Six months later, Campbell would break the record for the final time at the Bonneville Salt Flats of Utah.

The Blue Bird at Daytona Beach in Florida

08

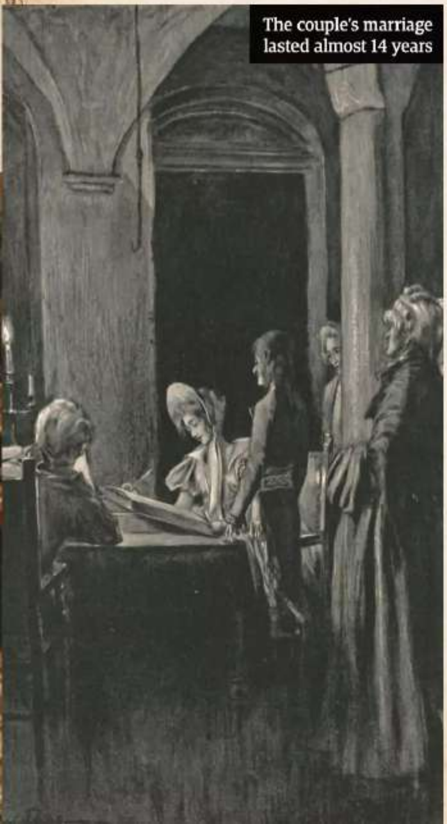
QUEEN ANNE ASCENDS THE THRONE 1702

After the death of her childless brother-in-law, King William III, Queen Anne ascended the English and Scottish thrones. The previous year, the Act of Settlement had been introduced to outline the royal succession in the event that neither William nor Anne left any legitimate heirs. Despite enduring 17 pregnancies, Anne never produced a surviving heir with her only child to live beyond infancy, Prince William, Duke of Gloucester, dying in 1700 aged 11. In 1707, Anne became queen of Great Britain when the Acts of Union united the kingdoms of England and Scotland. The last monarch of the House of Stuart, she was succeeded by George I in 1707.


Queen Anne remained on the throne for 12 years

09

NAPOLEON I AND JOSÉPHINE MARRY 1955


The couple's marriage lasted almost 14 years

Napoleon Bonaparte and his wife, Joséphine, were known for their passionate relationship and the couple married in a civil ceremony a year after they met. Their marriage upset Napoleon's family, particularly as Joséphine was six years his senior and had two children from her first marriage. Regardless, the couple remained besotted with each other, although Napoleon had to leave for Italy just two days after the wedding. They sent letters to one another during this time but Joséphine also embarked on an affair during her husband's absence, leaving him enraged once he found out.

10

FIRST PHONE CALL 1876

It is still disputed whether it was Bell or Gray who invented the telephone

Alexander Graham Bell made history when he made the first ever telephone call to his assistant, Mr Watson. Using an electromagnetic receiver and a liquid transmitter - similar to the one described by his competitor Elisha Gray - Bell successfully transmitted the words "Mr Watson, come here! I want to see you!" The phone call was made just three days after Bell's patent for his telephone was issued by the US patent office. He had filed for it the previous month, on the same day that Gray also filed his patent caveat for his telephone that used a liquid transmitter. However, neither of them can truly claim to have invented it - Innocenzo Manzetti first suggested the idea in 1844.

11 ASSASSINATION OF ELAGABALUS 222 CE

Elagabalus was only 14 years old when he became leader of the Roman Empire in 218 CE, a position secured for him thanks to a revolt led by his grandmother, Julia Maesa. Although he was only young, Elagabalus quickly gained a reputation for his eccentric behaviour and love for sexual excess, which quickly alienated the Senate, the Praetorian Guard and even his own people.

Not one to avoid controversy, the emperor changed the chief deity of the Roman pantheon from Jupiter to his divine namesake, Elagabalus, whom he had previously been high priest of while in Roman Syria. To make matters worse the emperor also married a Vestal Virgin, Aquilia Severa, which broke Roman law as Vestal Virgins had to take a 30-year vow of chastity.

Elagabalus' behaviour eventually drove away his grandmother, who initiated a plot to replace him with another one of her grandsons, Severus Alexander, who was only 15 years old. She encouraged the emperor to appoint Alexander as his heir and share the consulship with him, but Elagabalus reversed this and stripped his cousin of his titles when he realised that the Praetorian Guard preferred Alexander.

To test the loyalty of the Praetorians, Elagabalus spread a rumour that Alexander was at death's door and watched as they rioted in response. Having had enough, the Praetorians ordered the emperor and Alexander to go to the Praetorian camp, where the soldiers celebrated Alexander's arrival.

Angered, the emperor ordered the arrest and execution of all those who defied him but the Praetorians revolted, murdering Elagabalus along with his mother. Their heads were cut off and their bodies stripped naked before being paraded through the city.

At the time of his assassination, Elagabalus was roughly 18 years old and he had only been on the imperial throne for around four years. His short reign came to an ignominious end.

The controversial young emperor only ruled for a few years

Sun Yat-sen is pictured here in 1912

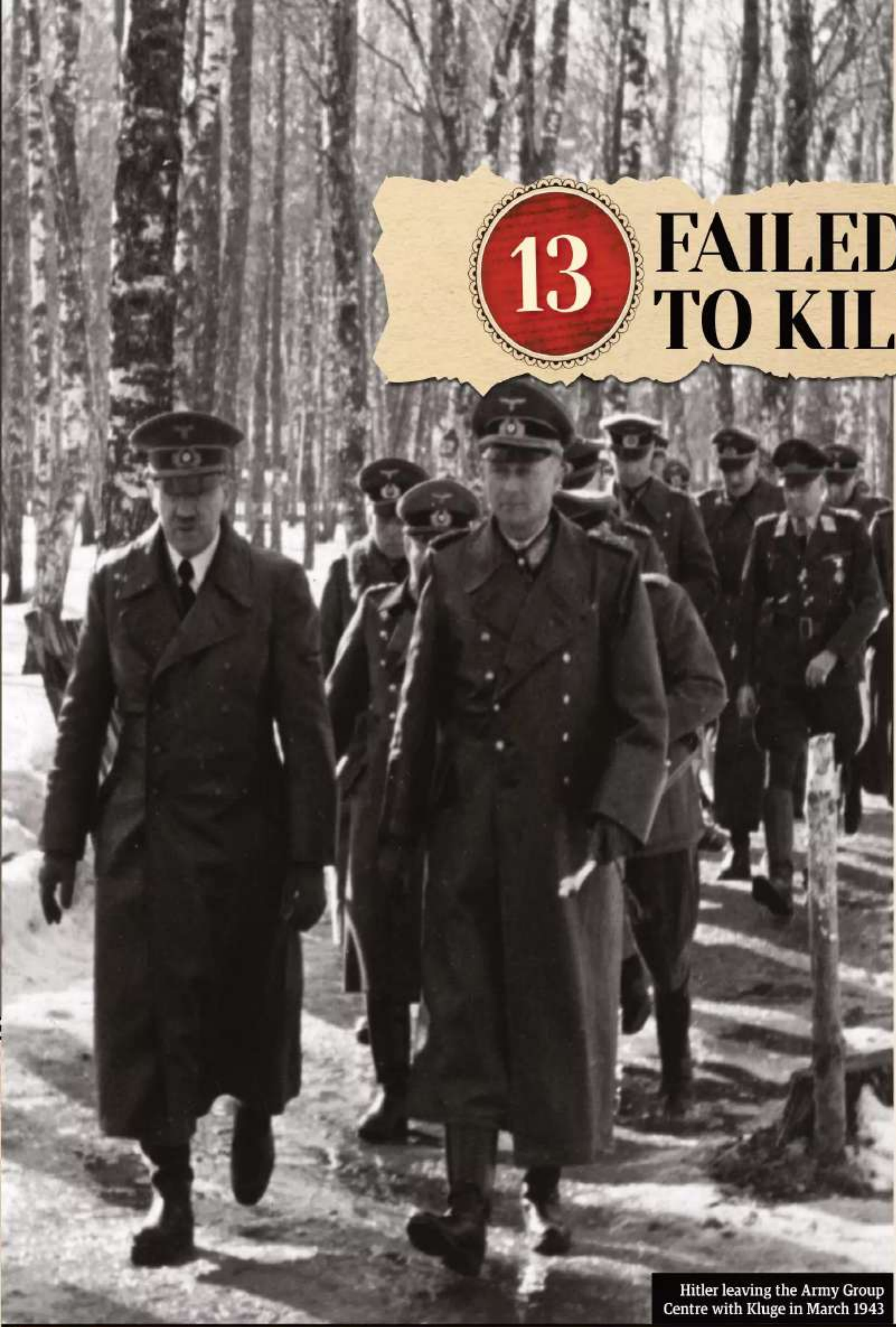
12 SUN YAT-SEN DIES 1925

The founding father of the Republic of China, Sun Yat-sen, a man born to poor farmers in the province of Guangdong, is remembered as the 'Father of the Nation' due to his role in turning China into a republic. Thanks to his part in ridding his country of the hated Qing dynasty, he also briefly became the Republic's first provisional president for the first three months in 1912 before resigning and handing the position over to Yuan Shikai. In 1919, Sun co-founded the Nationalist Party of China, the Kuomintang, and served as its first leader for almost six years.

Towards the end of January 1925, Sun underwent an exploratory laparotomy after suffering from ill health for some time - the results indicated that he had liver cancer and he wasn't given long to live. Attempts were made to treat him with radium and traditional Chinese medicine but these ultimately failed, and Sun died on 12 March at the age of 58. The following year construction began on a mausoleum that took three years to complete, with Sun's remains interred there from his original resting place at a Buddhist shrine in Beijing. Almost a century after his death, Sun is still considered to be one of the greatest leaders of modern China.

Sun is looked on fondly in Chinese history today, with many acknowledging his likable personality and his willingless to tolerate the weaknesses of others. He is also reembered for his singular pursuit of power.

13 FAILED ATTEMPT TO KILL HITLER 1943



Hitler leaving the Army Group Centre with Kluge in March 1943

Colonel Henning von Tresckow, leader of a conspiratorial group against the Führer, organised Operation Flash, a plot to assassinate Hitler. After the Night of the Long Knives in 1934 and the persecution of Jews, Tresckow believed that Hitler would lead Germany to humiliation and sought out others who shared this belief, hoping to remove Hitler and stage a takeover of power.

Initially, the plan was for a group of officers to shoot Hitler at lunch, during his visit to troops at the Army Group Centre on the Eastern Front at Smolensk in the USSR. However, this plot was cancelled after the intervention of Günther von Kluge, the commander of the Centre, perhaps because Heinrich Himmler was not present and therefore could not be killed at the same time.

Turning to plan B, Tresckow decided instead to put a bomb on Hitler's plane. His fellow conspirator, Lieutenant Fabian von Schlabrendorff, asked another officer, Heinz Brandt, to take a package aboard containing bottles of 'Cointreau' liquor for senior officers in Germany. Brandt unwittingly agreed, not realising that the alcohol was actually a bomb.

The bomb was expected to explode as the plane travelled over Misk and Schlabrendorff had triggered the fuse before handing Brandt the package. Yet the bomb failed to detonate, most likely because the low temperatures prevented the fuse from working properly. Schlabrendorff managed to retrieve the bomb once the plane had landed safely in East Prussia, stopping the conspiracy from being uncovered. This was just one of the multiple attempts to assassinate Hitler during his lifetime, all of which were unsuccessful.

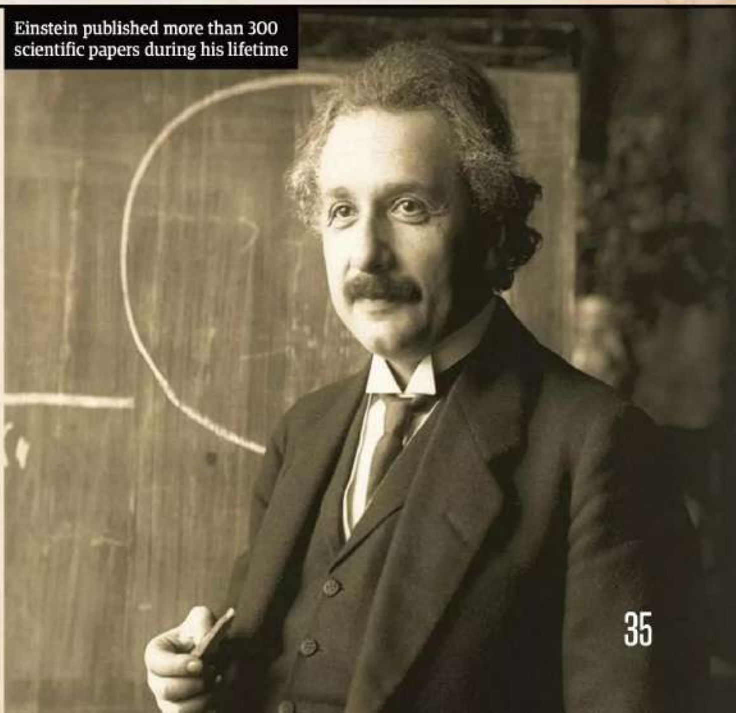
14 BIRTH OF ALBERT EINSTEIN 1879

Albert Einstein was born in the city of Ulm in the kingdom of Württemberg, a state within the German Empire. Six weeks later, his family to Munich and he was educated there until he was 15 years old, when the family relocated again to Italy in 1894.

By the time he had reached his teens, Einstein had demonstrated an extraordinary affinity for mathematics and physics. He finished his secondary education in Switzerland and in 1896, he enrolled at the Swiss Federal Polytechnic to become a teacher in mathematics and physics - Einstein gained his PhD nine years later in 1905.

That same year, he published his groundbreaking Annus Mirabilis papers, which included his theory of special relativity and his famous equation for mass-energy equivalence, $E = mc^2$. In 1916, Einstein published his general theory of relativity, which is considered to be one of the two pillars of modern physics.

Einstein published more than 300 scientific papers during his lifetime



15 ASSASSINATION OF JULIUS CAESAR 44 BCE

• WHY IT HAPPENED
In the dying days of the Roman Republic, Julius Caesar was trying to hold everything together. However, his actions had angered many senators and so they decided on a course of action - to kill him. They plotted for months until finally, on the Ides of March in 44 BCE, the time was right.

• THE NOBLEST ROMAN
Brutus was the son of Caesar's long-time mistress, Servilia, and her first husband. He was seen as an up-and-coming man in the Senate, although so far he had achieved little. A follower of the stern stoic philosophy, he was determined to the point of obsession. Caesar said: "Whatever Brutus wants, he wants badly." Brutus insisted that only Caesar be killed, and naively seems to have assumed that a pristine republic would somehow spring back to life once the dictator was dead.

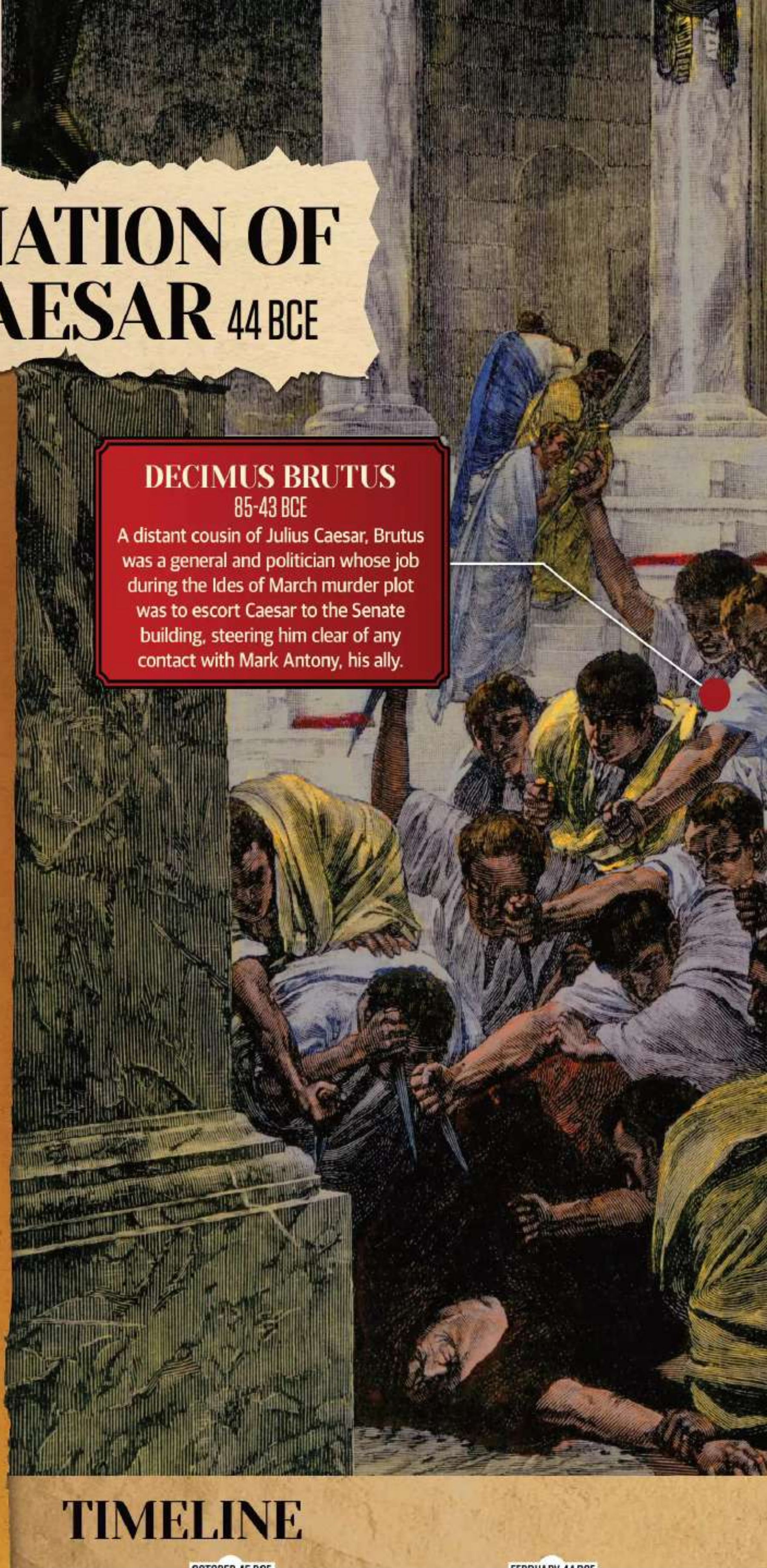
• LEAN AND HUNGRY
Cassius was married to Brutus' sister, Tertia. Rumour said that she had had an affair with Caesar. Cassius had won fame by extricating the survivors of Crassus' army after the disaster in Parthia. He was said to be jealous of the favour Caesar showed to Brutus.

• LIBERTY
Brutus and Cassius were doing rather well under the dictatorship, but they and their fellow conspirators felt that the very existence of a dictator meant that the Republic could not function. It should also be said that if they succeeded, they could expect to be the leading men in the restored Republic.

• THE MEEK MARTYR
Caesar is often depicted accepting his fate meekly. In fact, when first stabbed, he turned and yelled: "Bloody Casca, what are you playing at!" He then drew the long stylus pen he was carrying and jabbed at Casca with its sharp iron point. Caesar was wounded 23 times, although in the confusion several of the conspirators, including Brutus, were accidentally stabbed by their comrades.

• "ET TU, BRUTE?"
Although Shakespeare's version follows the biographer Plutarch's account closely, it is unlikely that these were Caesar's final words. Instead, he seems to have spoken in Greek, looking at Brutus and saying "Kai su, teknon?" ("You too, my son?"). It is unclear whether this was said in sad disappointment or in contemptuous defiance.

• FRIENDS, ROMANS, COUNTRYMEN
Mark Antony was Caesar's fellow consul, and persuaded the conspirators to agree to giving the dictator a public funeral. While we do not know what he said, Shakespeare's version gives a fine impression of Roman political oratory, and the result was rioting against the conspirators. Fleeing Rome, Brutus, Cassius and the others began to raise armies and act just as Caesar and Pompey had done in the past.



DECIMUS BRUTUS
85-43 BCE
A distant cousin of Julius Caesar, Brutus was a general and politician whose job during the Ides of March murder plot was to escort Caesar to the Senate building, steering him clear of any contact with Mark Antony, his ally.

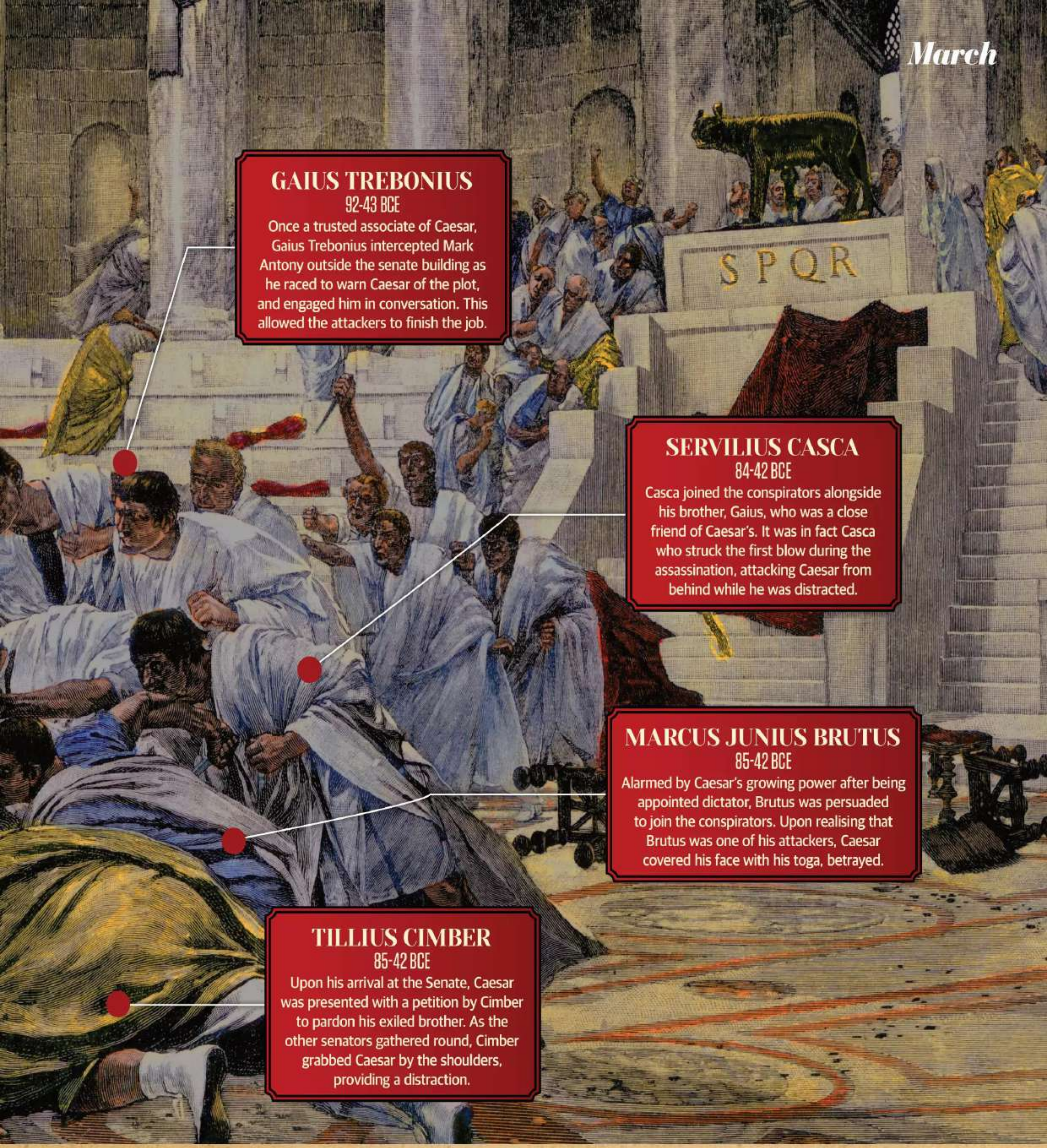
TIMELINE

OCTOBER 45 BCE

CAESAR DISMISSES HIS SECURITY
Believing that nobody would dare attack him, Caesar dismissed his bodyguard, an act that would allow the conspirators to carry out their ghastly attack.

FEBRUARY 44 BCE

DICTATOR FOR LIFE
Caesar was named dictator for life, an honour that saw him elevated to almost divine status. His inflated arrogance began to infuriate those around him, especially his close allies in the Senate.



GAIUS TREBONIUS
92-43 BCE

Once a trusted associate of Caesar, Gaius Trebonius intercepted Mark Antony outside the senate building as he raced to warn Caesar of the plot, and engaged him in conversation. This allowed the attackers to finish the job.

SERVILIUS CASCA
84-42 BCE

Casca joined the conspirators alongside his brother, Gaius, who was a close friend of Caesar's. It was in fact Casca who struck the first blow during the assassination, attacking Caesar from behind while he was distracted.

MARCUS JUNIUS BRUTUS
85-42 BCE

Alarmed by Caesar's growing power after being appointed dictator, Brutus was persuaded to join the conspirators. Upon realising that Brutus was one of his attackers, Caesar covered his face with his toga, betrayed.

TILLIUS CIMBER
85-42 BCE

Upon his arrival at the Senate, Caesar was presented with a petition by Cimber to pardon his exiled brother. As the other senators gathered round, Cimber grabbed Caesar by the shoulders, providing a distraction.

FEBRUARY 44 BCE

THE FESTIVAL OF LUPERCALIA

When Mark Antony attempted to place a laurel wreath on Caesar's head while in the Forum, Caesar pushed it away stating that Jupiter was the king of Romans – an act that many saw as staged.

MARCH 44 BCE

THE PLOT IS HATCHED

As they formulated their plot, the conspirators met secretly in small groups to avoid detection. As Caesar was due to embark on a three-year campaign, they had to act quick.

15 MARCH 44 BCE

THE IDES OF MARCH

Despite being begged not to go by his wife, Calpurnia, who awoke hysterical after nightmares depicting impending danger to Caesar, he attended the Senate and was assassinated.

20 MARCH 44 BCE

THE FUNERAL PROCESSION

Caesar was due to be cremated on a pyre in the Field of Mars, close to his family tomb, but his body was seized by locals and taken to the Forum where it was burned on a simpler pyre.

16

REDISCOVERY OF KNOSSOS 1900

The remains of the palace, pictured here around 1910

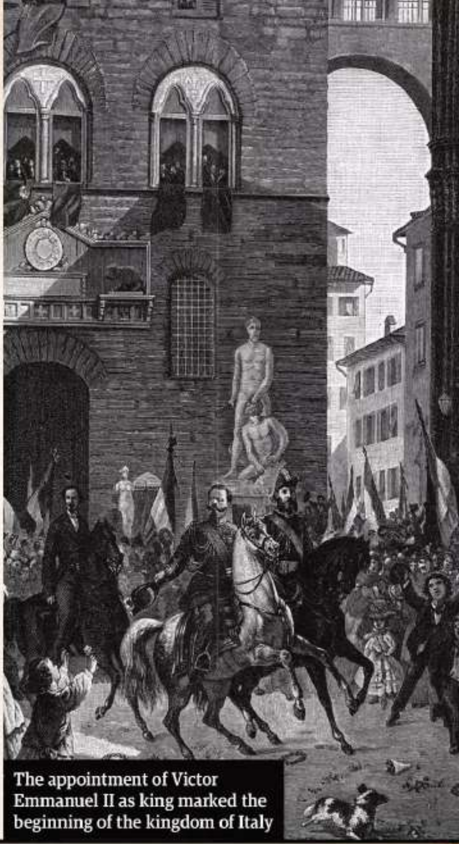
Cretan merchant and antiquarian Minos Kalokairinos first discovered the ancient palace of Knossos, the ceremonial and political centre of the Minoan civilisation, back in 1878. However, his excavation of the site was stopped a year after the intervention of Turkish authorities and landowners.

It would not be until 1900 that the site would be excavated once again, this time by English archaeologist Arthur Evans. He had uncovered most of the palace by 1903, exposing artwork and writing that had not seen the light of day for thousands of years. Two years later, Evans finished his excavations but continued his archaeological research on Knossos.

In particular, he had discovered 3,000 clay tablets at the site, which he chose to transcribe, publishing them in the *Scripta Minoa*. From the scripts, he determined that there were two different writing systems, Linear A and Linear B, becoming the first person to define them properly. In later years, Evans worked towards rebuilding the palace and his research contributed greatly to the understanding of the Minoan civilisation.

17

KINGDOM OF ITALY FOUNDED 1861



The appointment of Victor Emmanuel II as king marked the beginning of the kingdom of Italy

The kingdom of Italy was officially established on this day with the king of Sardinia, Victor Emmanuel II, assuming the title of king of Italy as proclaimed by the new Italian parliament. The kingdom was founded with the unification of the majority of the states of the Italian Peninsula and the kingdom of the Two Sicilies, though Rome and some of the Papal States remained under the control of the papacy. Although not fully unified at the time, it was a major breakthrough in a process that had begun almost five decades earlier with the Congress of Vienna in 1815, which saw Italy reverted back into the independent states it had been before the reign of Napoleon.

18

HARRIET TUBMAN MARRIES 1869

With the end of the American Civil War, abolitionist and political activist Harriet Tubman retired and returned to Auburn, New York, to care for her elderly parents. In 1869, she met Nelson Davis, a former slave and Civil War soldier from North Carolina, who had found work as a brick layer. At around 47 years old, Tubman was 22 years older than Davis but despite the large age gap, the couple fell in love. They married at the Central Presbyterian Church and five years later, they adopted a baby girl named Gertie. Tubman and Davis remained married for almost two decades before the latter's death from tuberculosis in 1888.

Tubman is pictured on the far left with Nelson seated beside her

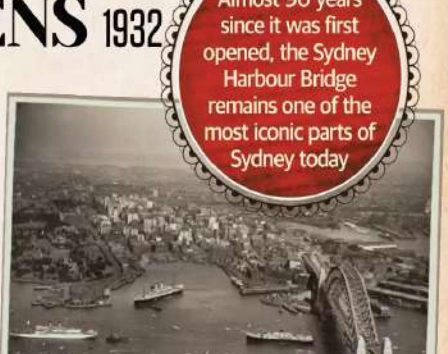
19

SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE OPENS 1932

The Sydney Harbour Bridge finally opened for use after nine years of construction and to this day, it is the tallest steel arch bridge in the world, measuring 134 metres high. There had been plans to build a bridge across Sydney Harbour that had been discussed throughout the 19th century, although nothing came to fruition.

Finally, engineer John Bradfield was hired in 1914 to oversee the project until the emergence of World War I frustrated efforts once again. After the war, plans for the bridge were revived again, with Bradfield drawing inspiration from Hell Gate Bridge in New York City. It was designed and built by a British firm, Dorman Long and Co Ltd, who won the contract for the bridge in 1924.

Almost 90 years since it was first opened, the Sydney Harbour Bridge remains one of the most iconic parts of Sydney today

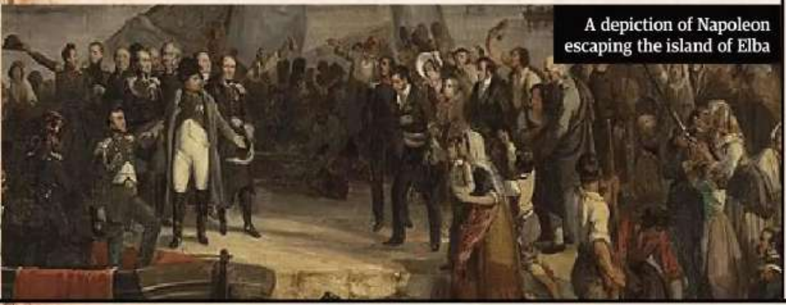


An aerial view of the Sydney Harbour Bridge on its official opening

20 NAPOLEON'S HUNDRED DAYS START 1815

Escaping from his exile on the island of Elba, Napoleon entered Paris a week after landing on French soil and seized power once again. As he had made his way through France, his support and army continued to grow, causing King Louis XVIII to flee to Belgium. Once in Paris, Napoleon immediately made liberal changes to the Imperial Constitution, earning him support from many of his opponents.

However, Britain, Prussia, Austria and Russia had declared Napoleon an outlaw on 13 March and just four days later, they forged an alliance to defeat him once and for all. The ensuing War of the Seventh Coalition ended with Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Waterloo three months later. He was exiled once again, this time on the island of Saint Helena, and this time it was permanent with Napoleon dying there six years later. When the king was welcomed back to France that July, the phrase 'Hundred Days' to describe Napoleon's brief return to power was used for the first time.

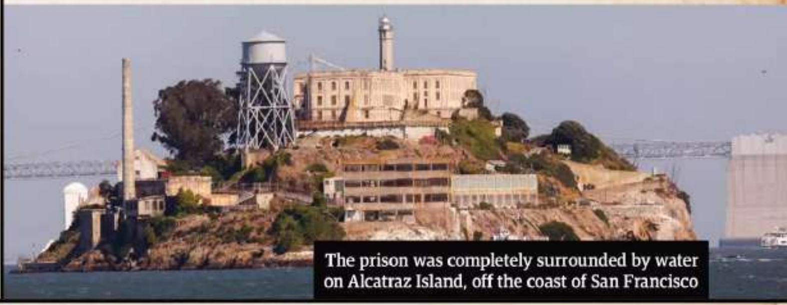

A depiction of Napoleon escaping the island of Elba

21 CLOSURE OF ALCATRAZ 1963

Arguably one of the world's most notorious prisons, Alcatraz was closed after operating for 29 years. Less than a year before, three prisoners had managed to successfully from the prison and they were never found – however, this was not the reason it was shut down.

Ultimately, Alcatraz was closed because it proved too expensive to run, with research indicating that it cost three times the amount of average prisons in the United States. The location of the prison turned out to be far from ideal, particularly as it had no access to fresh water or food and required supplies to be brought over by boat, which was by no means a cheap feat.

On top of this, the prison itself was deteriorating because of exposure to the elements and it would have required millions of dollars to repair it properly. After the closure, Alcatraz remained abandoned for a decade before it was turned into a museum in 1973. Today, it is a popular tourist attraction with over 1 million visitors arriving each year, keen to see inside what was arguably the world's most famous civilian prison.

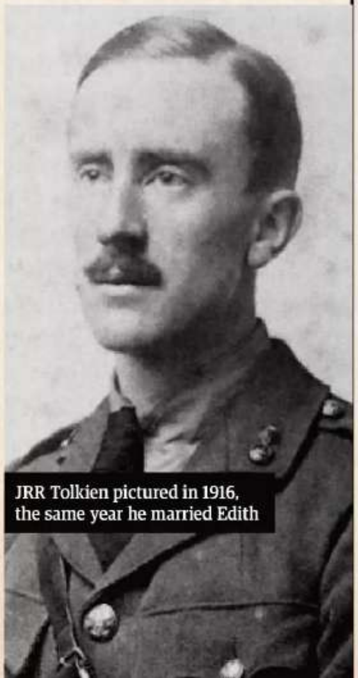

The prison was completely surrounded by water on Alcatraz Island, off the coast of San Francisco

22 JRR TOLKIEN MARRIES 1916

Author JRR Tolkien married Edith Bratt at Saint Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church, Warwick, three years after they became engaged in Birmingham. Tolkien had been in love with Edith, who was three years his senior, since he was 16 years old but their journey to marriage was not smooth sailing.

The couple had met when Tolkien moved into the same boarding house as Edith with his brother, Hilary. They had a lot in common as both had been orphaned and soon they began a relationship. However, Tolkien's guardian was concerned that he was in love with an older, Protestant woman and demanded that all contact cease between the two until Tolkien was 21.

Tolkien agreed and on his 21st birthday he wrote to Edith and declared his love for her, along with a proposal of marriage. Edith had since gotten engaged to another man, fearing that Tolkien had forgotten her, but she quickly broke this engagement and accepted his proposal. They remained married for 65 years until Edith's death in 1971.


JRR Tolkien pictured in 1916, the same year he married Edith

23 MUSSOLINI FOUNDS THE FASCIST PARTY 1919

When Mussolini founded the Fascist Party, it merged two fascism movements, including his one he had founded five years previously, with members denouncing the Marxism movement. With this new party, he gained the support of many war veterans who were struggling with unemployment and angered by the Treaty of Versailles, which they thought treated Italy unfairly.

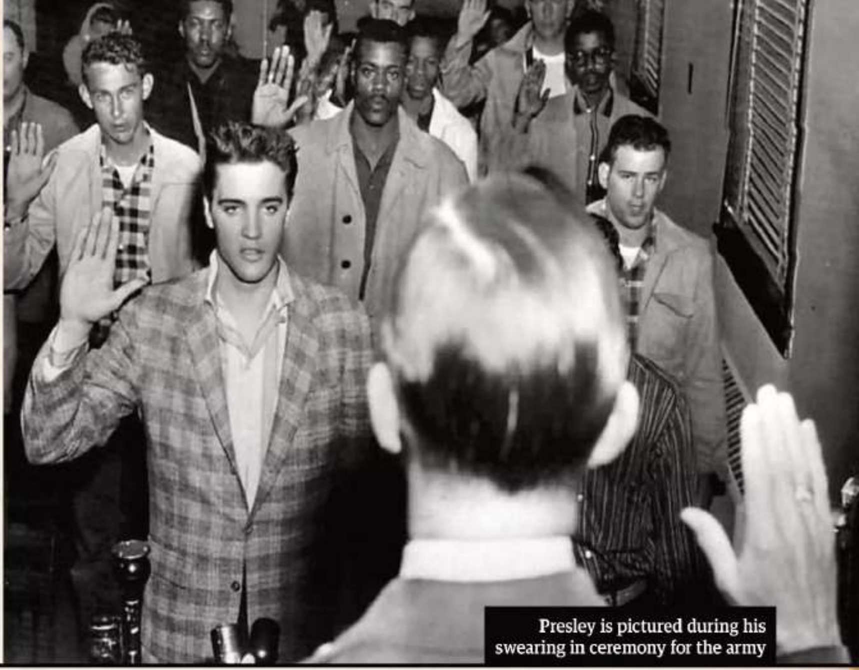
These men formed armed squads that became known as the Black Shirts, because of their distinctive uniforms, and they would terrify and attack socialist and communist opponents – little was done to control them as there was a fear that a communist revolution was on the horizon. Mussolini's party was eventually renamed the National Fascist Party in 1921, the same year it was invited to form a coalition government. A year later, the party seized power in Italy following a coup led by Mussolini.

Mussolini rose to power quickly after he founded the Fascist Party

ages

24 ELVIS JOINS THE ARMY 1958

Elvis Presley was sworn into the US Army, two weeks after production wrapped on his film *King Creole*. His manager Colonel Tom Parker believed it would be an opportunity to turn around negative publicity about the singer and he was correct, as a lot of Americans who opposed Elvis' rock and roll music were pleased that he had been drafted. On the other hand, his fans were left devastated, particularly when his famous pompadour hairstyle was shaved off. He spent the next two years on active duty and was discharged in March 1964.


Presley is pictured during his swearing in ceremony for the army

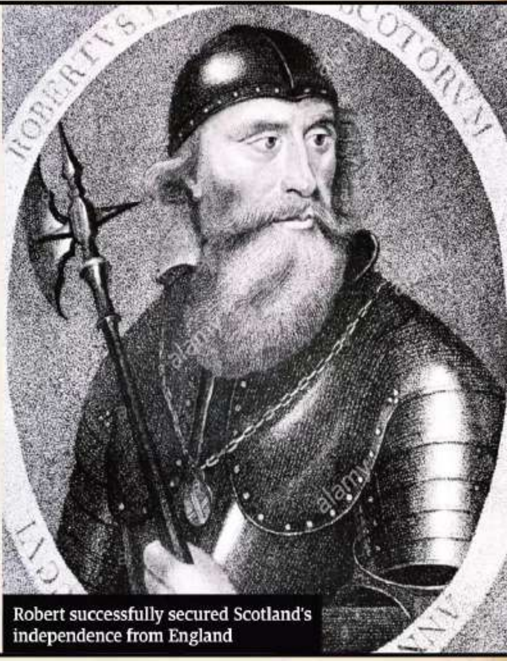
25 ROBERT THE BRUCE BECOMES KING OF SCOTS 1306

Robert the Bruce's journey to become king of Scotland was certainly not an easy one. He was a descendant of King David I and his paternal grandfather was even one of the claimants involved in the succession dispute over the Scottish throne from 1290 to 1292. Another claimant, John Balliol, gained the crown and when King Edward I of England, also known as the Hammer of the Scots, invaded the country in 1296 to force Balliol to abdicate, Robert supported the English king.

However, this didn't stop Robert from supporting William Wallace's failed rebellion against Edward the following year. He was not punished for his involvement and in 1298, he was appointed as a guardian of Scotland along with Balliol's nephew and Robert's rival for the throne, John Comyn. Four years later, Robert stabbed Comyn to death following argument, and was excommunicated by the pope and outlawed by Edward as a result.

Deciding to proclaim his right to the throne, Robert moved quickly and had himself crowned king on 25 March. Over the next 20 years, he would continue to fight for Scotland's independence from England, with Edward I's grandson, King Edward III, officially renouncing all claims to superiority over Scotland in 1327.

When Robert died, he was buried in Dunfermline but had asked for his heart to be buried in the Holy Land. However, it only got as far as Spain before itwas sent back and buried in Melrose Abbey.



Robert successfully secured Scotland's independence from England

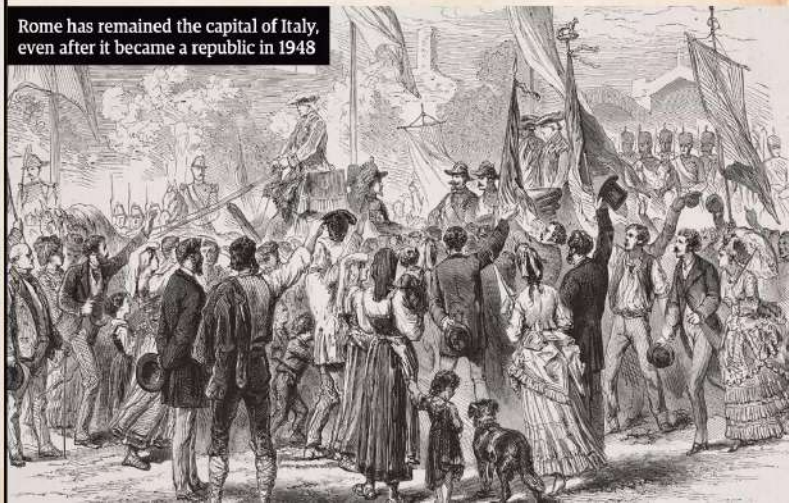
26 FIRST POLIO VACCINE 1953

After developing the first polio vaccine, Dr Jonas Salk announced on a national radio show that he had successfully tested the vaccine on a small group of adults and children. The previous year over 3,000 people had died from the disease in the United States, and Salk's breakthrough was widely hailed. Polio has now been eradicated from a large part of the Western world.

Polio had plagued the world for thousands of years before Salk's vaccine

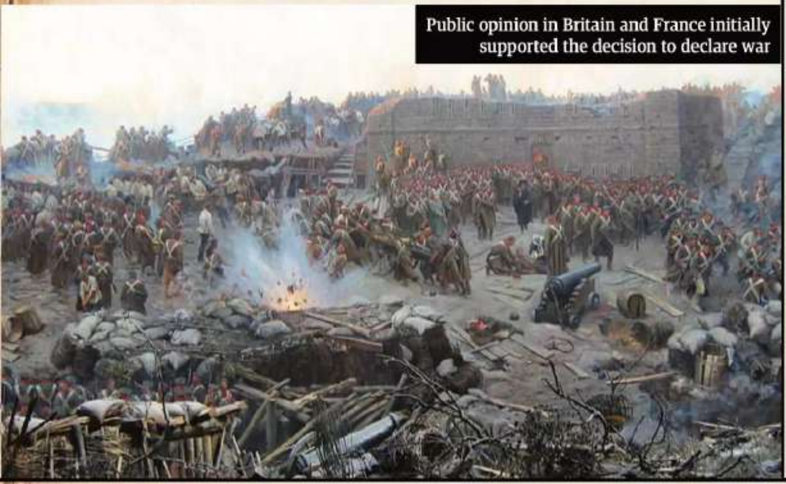
27 ROME BECOMES THE CAPITAL OF ITALY 1870

The capital of the kingdom of Italy was officially moved from Florence to Rome a decade after the nation was founded, following the capture of the city by Italian troops the previous year. It marked the completion of the Italian unification process, which had started back in 1815.


Rome has remained the capital of Italy, even after it became a republic in 1948

28 BRITAIN AND FRANCE DECLARE WAR ON RUSSIA 1854

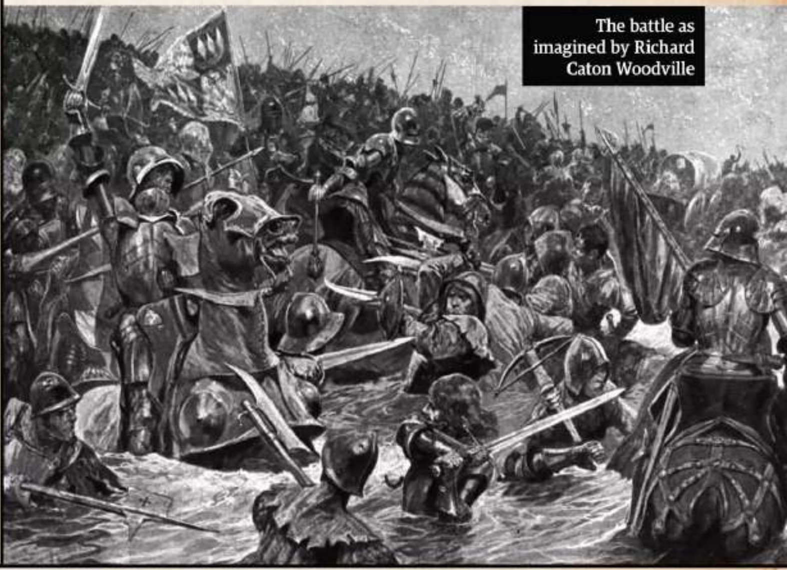
When Russia invaded the Danuban Principalities to place pressure on the Ottoman Empire, both Britain and France set the Russians an ultimatum to withdraw their troops. Since this was ignored, Britain and France declared war on Russia and consequently became involved in the Crimean War. One of their reasons for doing so was out of concern for the ailing Ottoman Empire, as well as to stop Russian expansionism in the Near East. Russia was eventually defeated by the Allies after two years of war.



Public opinion in Britain and France initially supported the decision to declare war

29 BATTLE OF TOWTON 1461

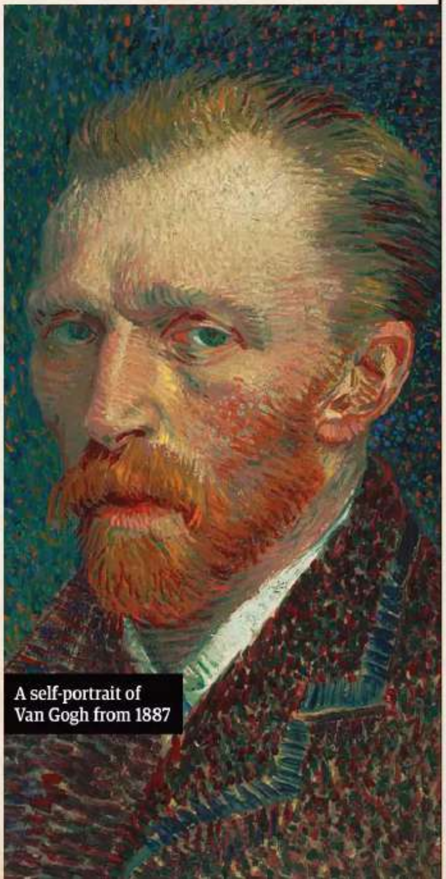
In this bloody battle in the Wars of the Roses, a storm of arrows by Yorkist archers goaded the Lancastrians into a headlong attack. After six hours of combat, John de Mowbray, 3rd Duke of Norfolk, arrived with Yorkist reinforcements. His men crushed the left flank of the duke of Somerset's Lancastrian army. The Lancastrians fled towards the flooded River Cock only to be cut down in large numbers in a meadow by pursuing Yorkist cavalry. Edward IV was subsequently crowned in London on 28 June.



The battle as imagined by Richard Caton Woodville

30 BIRTH OF VAN GOGH 1853

One of the most famous artists to have ever lived, Vincent van Gogh was born in the village of Zundert in the Netherlands, to an upper-middle-class family. Known for his colourful Post-Impressionist paintings, Van Gogh suffered with mental illness that culminated in his suicide in 1890 at the age of 37. Though his paintings remained unknown during his lifetime, they have since gained critical acclaim and success, and are some of the most recognised pieces of art across the world today. His works now change hands for millions of pounds and are exhibited worldwide.



A self-portrait of Van Gogh from 1887

31 EIFFEL TOWER OPENS 1889

Designed by engineer Gustave Eiffel, the Eiffel Tower was created as the entrance for the World's Fair in 1889. For the grand opening, Eiffel invited government officials and members of the press to the top of the tower where he hoisted up a French Tricolour, while a 25-gun salute was fired from the tower's first level. However, the Eiffel Tower was not quite ready and so was not opened to the public until 15 May. Today, it is an iconic symbol of France and is the most-visited paid monument in the world.

A photograph of the Eiffel Tower taken during the World's Fair

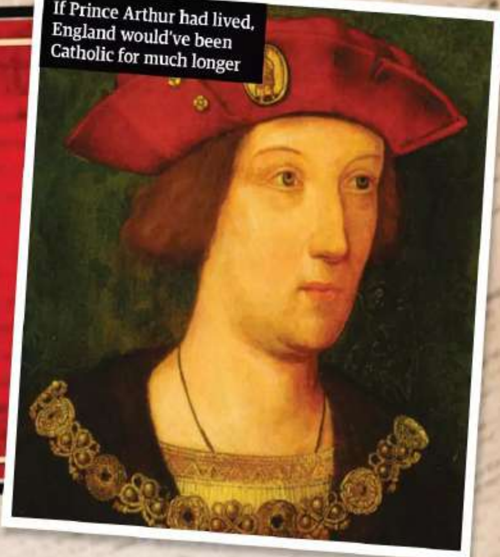
APRIL

01

DISCOVERY OF POMPEII 1748

Buried beneath the rubble of an eruption in 79 CE was a city lost from the world until a Spanish military engineer by the name of Rocque Joaquin de Alcubierre found its ruins in 1748. Under order of King Charles III of Spain, a dig of the nearby city Herculaneum in 1709 had led to the systematic of the surrounding areas in 1738. Pompeii was discovered buried between four to six metres of rock ten years later. The entombed city was the result of a violent eruption of the nearby volcano Mount Vesuvius, which encased both its architecture and 10,000 to 20,000 residents in rubble and ash. The name of the lost city was revealed when an inscription was uncovered penning "Rei publicae pompeianorum", identifying the remains as the site of Pompeii in 1763.

Pompeii was an advanced architectural civilisation with complex water systems and amphitheatres



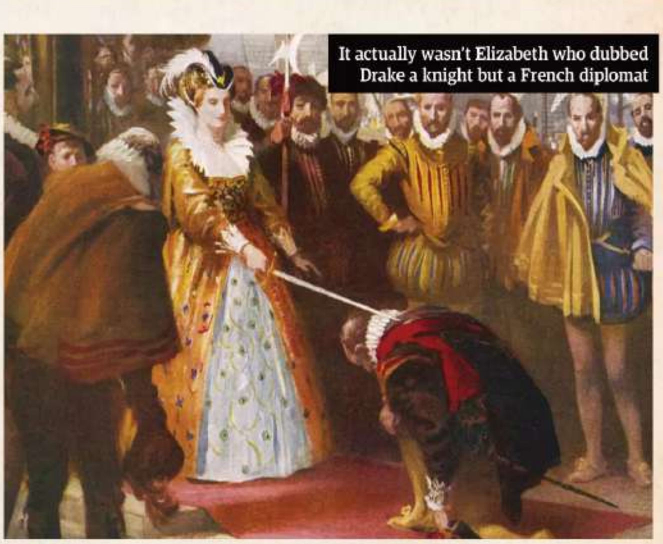
If Prince Arthur had lived, England would've been Catholic for much longer

02

PRINCE ARTHUR DIES 1502

Arthur, the first-born child of Henry VII and Elizabeth of York, was born in September 1486. In 1489 Arthur was made Prince of Wales, and was idolised by his parents. He was raised with every expectation of succeeding his father, and was given a magnificent education befitting a Renaissance prince.

Henry VII had planned a marriage for his heir, and on 14 November 1501 Arthur was married to Catherine of Aragon, the youngest daughter of Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile. The couple were sent to establish their household at Ludlow on the Welsh Marches, but they both fell ill in March 1502. Catherine recovered, but Arthur did not, dying on 2 April. His younger brother, Henry, replaced him as his father's heir.



It actually wasn't Elizabeth who dubbed Drake a knight but a French diplomat

03

FRANCIS DRAKE IS KNIGHTED 1581

Upon his return from his epic journey across the seas, Francis Drake was hailed as the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. For this - and the treasures he brought back - he received a knighthood from Queen Elizabeth I. Despite what some would call brutality, this confirmed to him that his queen and country were in support of his deeds and motivated him to continue his ravaging of Spanish settlements.

04

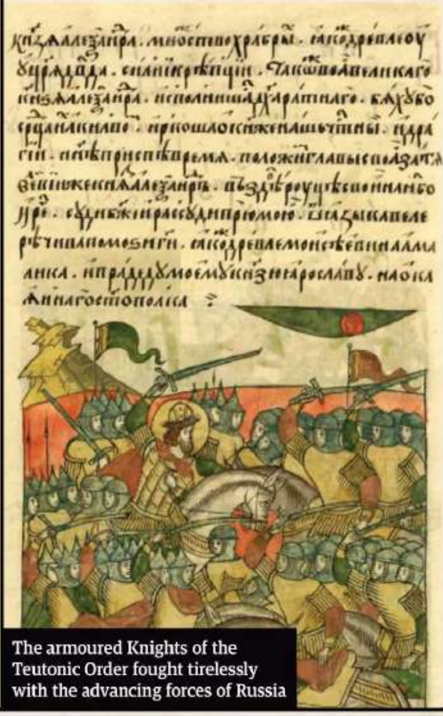
THE ASSASSINATION OF MLK JR 1968

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s transformed American society, but it would be a success that came with incredible hardship and sacrifice. One loss rocked the African-American community more than any other - the assassination of clergyman, Nobel Peace Prize laureate and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Fatally shot while staying at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee, King's death shocked the world. Initially, it violently intensified racial tensions across the country, but as he built his beliefs on nonviolence and inclusion, King's passing eventually led to a national period of mourning that helped speed up the passing of the Equal Housing Bill, the last significant piece of federal legislation achieved by the American Civil Rights Movement.

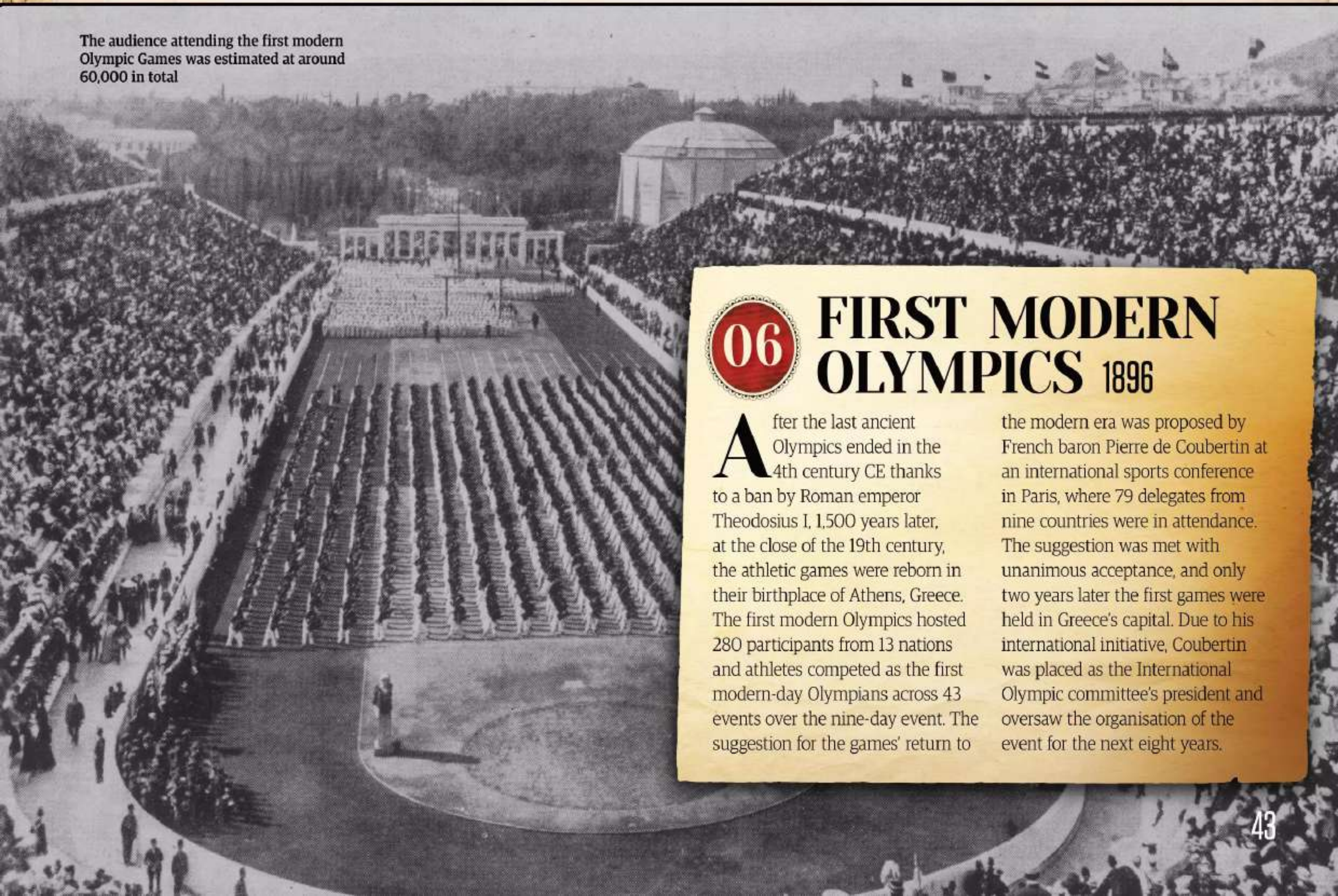
05

BATTLE ON THE ICE 1242



The armoured Knights of the Teutonic Order fought tirelessly with the advancing forces of Russia

Fought on the frozen waters of Lake Peipus, a battle raged between the forces of Russia and Western crusaders. In an attempt to overthrow the Eastern Orthodox population of the Republic of Novgorod, a group of Catholics known as the Teutonic Knights set their sights to invade Russia. However, the invasion was thwarted by Alexander Nevsky and his men. Blood was shed not only at the hands of rivals, but by the lake itself as many of the Medieval knights fell through its fragile frozen skin and plunged to their death.

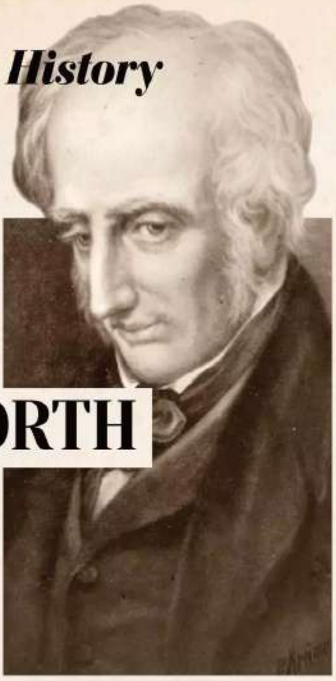


The audience attending the first modern Olympic Games was estimated at around 60,000 in total

06

FIRST MODERN OLYMPICS 1896

After the last ancient Olympics ended in the 4th century CE thanks to a ban by Roman emperor Theodosius I, 1,500 years later, at the close of the 19th century, the athletic games were reborn in their birthplace of Athens, Greece. The first modern Olympics hosted 280 participants from 13 nations and athletes competed as the first modern-day Olympians across 43 events over the nine-day event. The suggestion for the games' return to the modern era was proposed by French baron Pierre de Coubertin at an international sports conference in Paris, where 79 delegates from nine countries were in attendance. The suggestion was met with unanimous acceptance, and only two years later the first games were held in Greece's capital. Due to his international initiative, Coubertin was placed as the International Olympic committee's president and oversaw the organisation of the event for the next eight years.



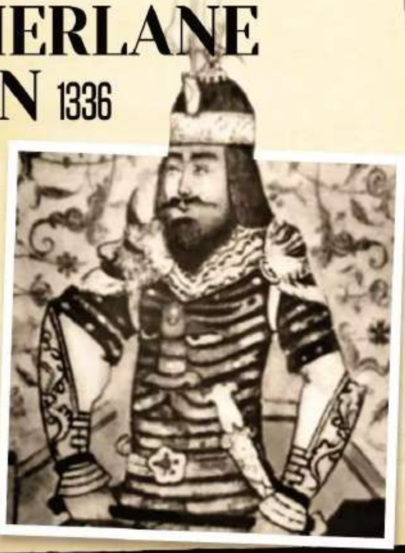
07

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH BORN 1770

Born in Cumbria, England, to parents John and Ann Cookson Wordsworth, William later became one of the world's most influential poets.

09

TAMERLANE BORN 1336



Tamerlane, also known as Timur, was born in the city of Kesh, Taxsoxania (a historical region of Turkistan). As the newest member of the Barlas tribe, comprising of Mongolian and Turkic descendants, he went on to become one of Asia's most feared conquerors.

08

CARACALLA ASSASSINATED 217 CE

Deemed one of the most cruelle and bloodthirsty emperors in Roman history, killing his own brother in 211 CE to become the sole emperor of Rome was but a mere drop in the ocean of his bloodshed. However, Caracalla fell at the hands of his own successor, Macrinus, who had been informed of Caracalla's own plans to kill him.

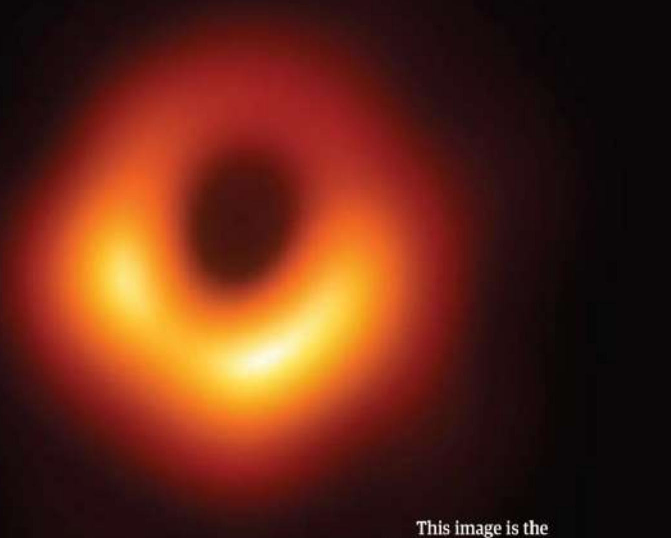
At the time of his death, Caracalla was only 29 years of age

10

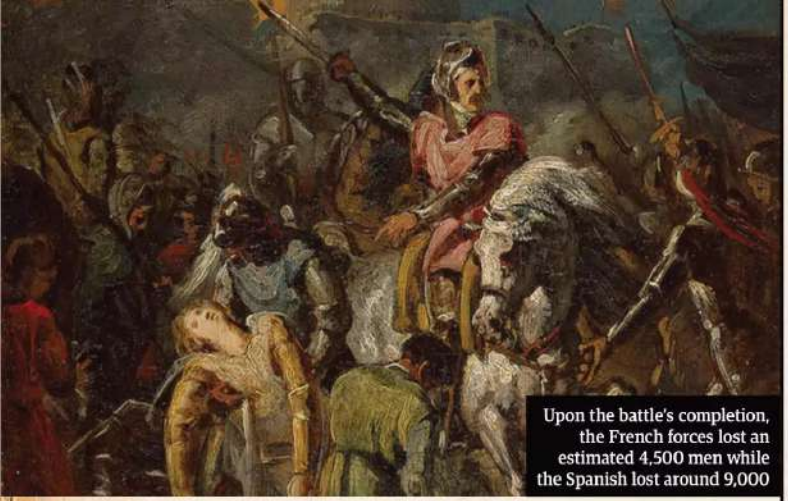
BLACK HOLE PICTURED FOR THE FIRST TIME 2019

Captured by the Event Horizon telescope, a network of eight radio telescopes in locations around the world from Antarctica to Spain and Chile, the first ever image of a black hole was released on 10 April 2019. The picture shows the centre of the Messier 87 galaxy, which is 55 million light years from Earth. One of the most mysterious phenomenons in the universe, black holes are unseeable as light and matter cannot escape from them - in the photograph, it is surrounded by dust and gas.

> **"BLACK HOLES ARE UNSEEABLE AS LIGHT AND MATTER CANNOT ESCAPE"**



This image is the first ever photograph of a black hole



Upon the battle's completion, the French forces lost an estimated 4,500 men while the Spanish lost around 9,000

11

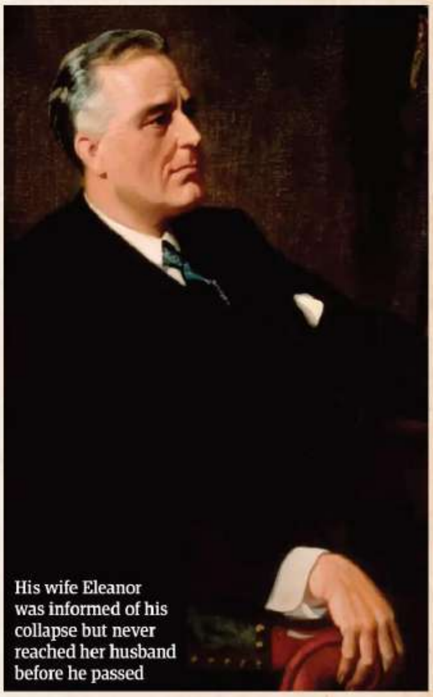
BATTLE OF RAVENNA 1512

It was a battle between Church and state, where a young commander led his men to victory before paying the ultimate price. At the youthful age of 21, French commander Gaston de Foix, duke of Nemours and nephew to Louis XII, led an army of 23,000 men into the battlefield to face the artillery of the Holy League. Having already taken Brescia, a region of northern Italy, earlier that year, Foix set his sights on Ravenna in the midst of the Italian Wars era. Serving as the viceroy of Naples, the Spanish general and commander of the Holy League Ramón de Cardona met the advances of Foix's men and so the battle began. The campaign was fought with the crossing of swords, but propelled by the power of gunfire. As the use of gun-powered warfare was a new addition to an army's arsenal, the opposing troops engaged in an artillery exchange. Foix's firepower proved too much for the League and Spanish Calvary, who retreated from the battlefield, placing the victory firmly in Foix's hands. However, that victory was short-lived, and in a fatal feud with retreating soldiers, Foix was killed.

12

FDR DIES 1945

Having served four terms as Americas democratic president, Franklin D Roosevelt had seen the country through the Great Depression and the majority of the Second World War before passing away. At a retreat in Georgia, USA, Roosevelt complained of a head pain before collapsing to the floor. Doctors discovered he had experienced a massive cerebral haemorrhage and within a few hours pronounced him dead. At the time of his death, he was surrounded by cousins and Lucy Mercer, his mistress.



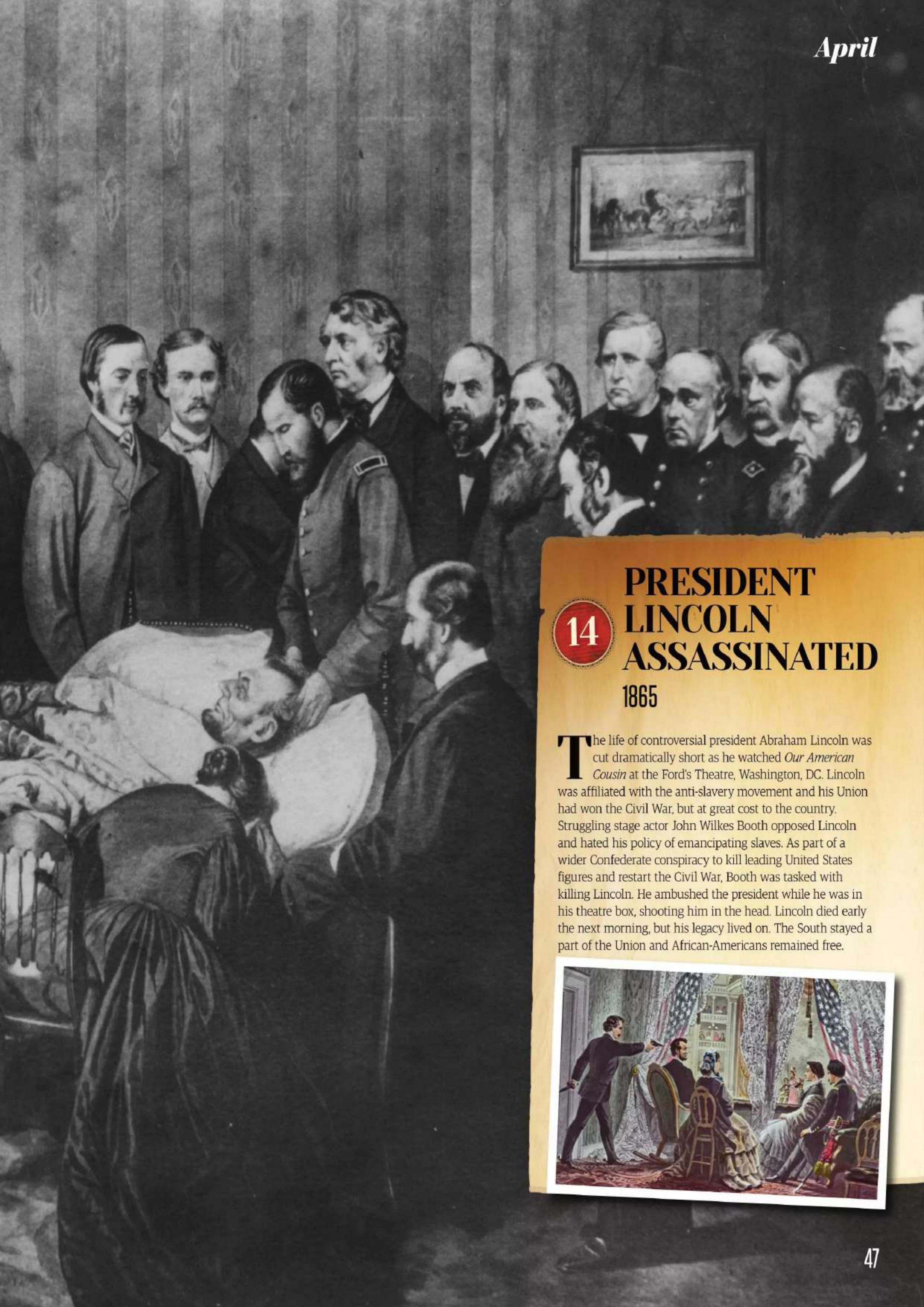
His wife Eleanor was informed of his collapse but never reached her husband before he passed

13

ANNIE JUMP CANNON DIES 1941

As one of the human 'computers' at Harvard College Observatory, Annie Jump Cannon is remembered as the women who categorised the stars. She was one of 'Pickering's Harem', a select group of women reporting to the observatory's director Edward Charles Pickering. Annie was best known for her revolutionary lettering system of stars based on their decreasing temperatures. During her work, she classified and gathered information on more than 225,000 celestial bodies, and her method was internationally recognised and is still used today.

Annie Jump Cannon was the first women to be awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Oxford



14

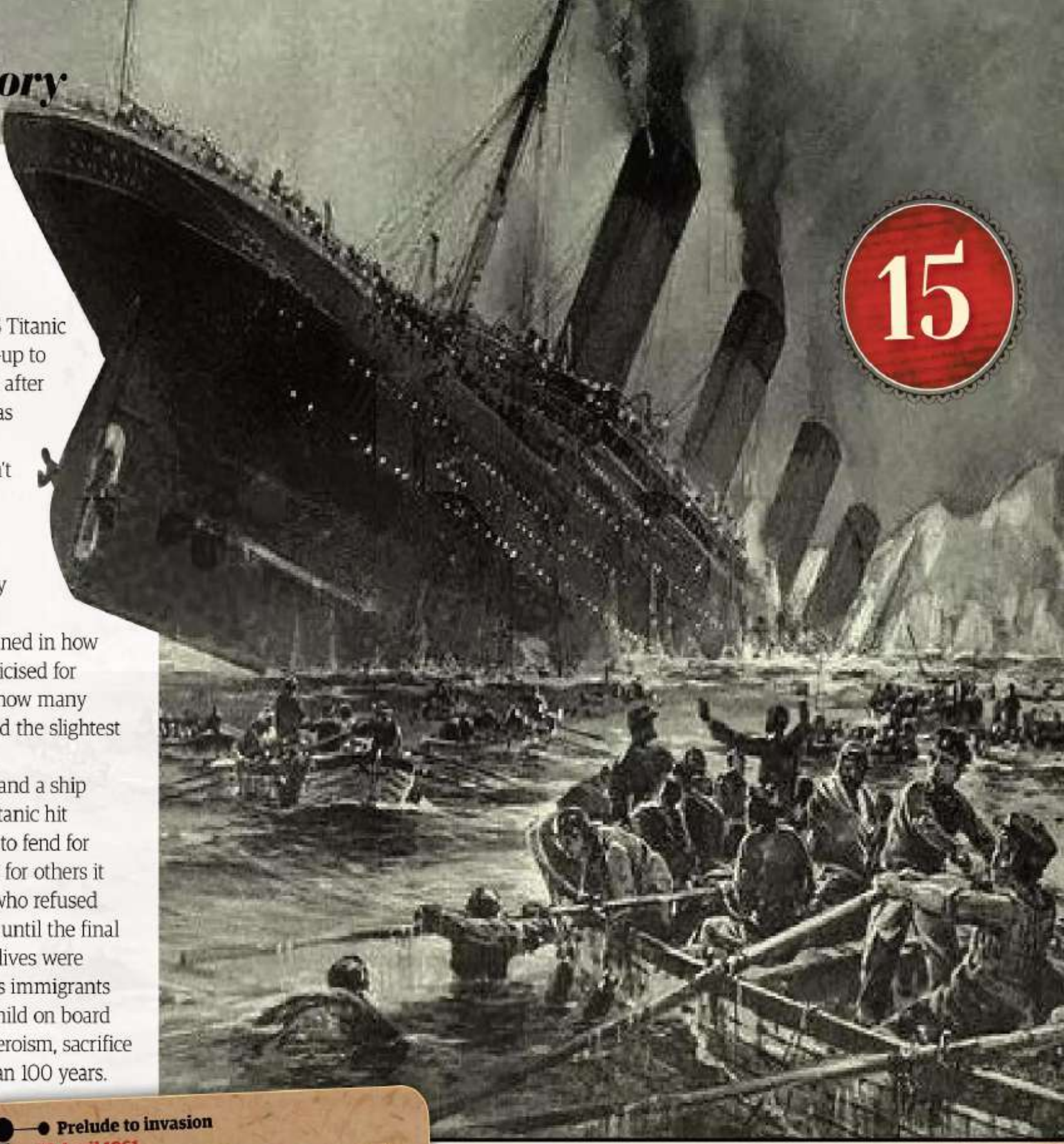
PRESIDENT LINCOLN ASSASSINATED

1865

The life of controversial president Abraham Lincoln was cut dramatically short as he watched *Our American Cousin* at the Ford's Theatre, Washington, DC. Lincoln was affiliated with the anti-slavery movement and his Union had won the Civil War, but at great cost to the country. Struggling stage actor John Wilkes Booth opposed Lincoln and hated his policy of emancipating slaves. As part of a wider Confederate conspiracy to kill leading United States figures and restart the Civil War, Booth was tasked with killing Lincoln. He ambushed the president while he was in his theatre box, shooting him in the head. Lincoln died early the next morning, but his legacy lived on. The South stayed a part of the Union and African-Americans remained free.

15

TITANIC SINKS 1912



Despite the common misconception, RMS Titanic was never called 'unsinkable' in the run-up to its maiden voyage. In fact, it wasn't until after the sinking that it became known as such. It was 'practically unsinkable', but so was every other luxury liner of the period. These ships just didn't sink - that was the end of it - and there was nothing special about Titanic in this regard.

It was because of this general attitude of superiority over the sea that Titanic carried only enough lifeboats for half of the passengers on board, and none of the crew members were trained in how to conduct an evacuation. The officers, later criticised for releasing lifeboats half full, simply had no idea how many people could safely board the boats. Nobody had the slightest notion that the ship would, or even could, sink.

With no procedures in place to protect them and a ship completely unprepared for evacuation, when Titanic hit an iceberg on 14 April 1912, those on board had to fend for themselves. For some, death was inevitable, but for others it was a noble choice - such as the devoted wife who refused to leave her husband, and the band that played until the final moment. In less than three hours, hundreds of lives were changed, and more were ended. From penniless immigrants to multi-millionaires, every man, woman and child on board had a life, a story and a destiny. Their tales of heroism, sacrifice and survival have intrigued people for more than 100 years.

16

BAY OF PIGS 1961

In the early 1960s, concern in the US over the new left-wing direction of Cuba's politics was growing. Fulgencio Batista's supporters were being put on trial and executed and, along with Castro's outspoken criticism of the US, Americans were getting nervous so an invasion was planned.

Nothing went as it was supposed to. Some say the invasion was doomed to fail from the very start and should it have succeeded, there were no policies or contingency plans in place anyway.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Prelude to invasion

16 April 1961

The US mounts diversionary activities around other Cuban locations, to disguise its true intentions. These include the 'Phony War' of 16 April, around Baracoa and Guantánamo. Cuban revolutionary military forces scramble to meet their US attackers, putting up more of a fight than the US expects.

Day one

17 April

1,400 US troops, four transport ships and a fleet of smaller fibreglass boats enter the Bay of Pigs. Cuba responds with fighter jets and bombers. US paratroopers are dropped onto the island, but land in a swamp and lose all their equipment. Osvaldo Ramirez, leader of the Cuban resistance against Castro, is captured and summarily executed by Castro's supporters.

Day two

18 April

Cuban troops, tanks and militia force the invaders and resistance to retreat in several areas. CIA pilots in B-26 bomber planes use bombs, napalm and rockets against Cuban targets, causing civilian casualties alongside their intended police and military victims.

Day three

19 April

Four US airmen are killed when Cuban forces mount a spirited defence against another CIA air attack. Anti-Castro forces on the ground, with their air support lost and ammunition steadily running out, are forced to retreat in the face of a Cuban onslaught and have to be evacuated. The US withdraws from the invasion.

The aftermath

20 April onward

US destroyer ships search for survivors along the Cuban coast while intelligence-gathering flights continue. Hundreds of executions take place in Cuba as retaliation against the opposition, and Castro gloats over his prisoners of war. He offers the US a deal to exchange them for tractors. They eventually get food and medicine instead.

17

CAMBODIAN CIVIL WAR ENDS 1975

It had been a civil war that raged on for several years and had claimed the lives of over 200,000 people, most of whom were Cambodian civilians. Politically overthrown by the country's previous prime minister, Marshal Lon Nol, King Sihanouk sought an alliance with a fast-growing resistance force known as the Khmer Rouge led by politician Pol Pot. Civil war broke out in 1970, and with the help of Vietnamese and US forces, the Khmer Rouge defeated Sihanouk and took claim of Cambodia in 1975.

Under Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, about a million Cambodians died from starvation and mistreated disease

It's believed the IRB Military Council had actually planned to begin their insurgence on Good Friday before settling on Easter Sunday in 1916

18

IRELAND BECOMES A REPUBLIC 1949

The separation of the Republic of Ireland from its previous British rule began during the 'Easter Rising' in 1916. The rising was both a military and political assault against British forces in the name of independence. In 1919, after the far-left political party Sinn Féin was elected into power in Ireland, the War of Independence began. Reaching its bloody conclusion in 1921, Ireland was given dominion, and the Irish Free State was formed. However, not a real republic and still under British influence, it wasn't until 1949 that the Republic of Ireland Act came into effect, amalgamating the southern counties as one independent nation.

Set in Scotland, Macbeth is the story of a man who wants to be king

20

MACBETH PERFORMED 1606

It's a tale of ambition, fate and death. The tragedy of *Macbeth* is one of William Shakespeare's most elegant and long-lasting pieces of work. With an arsenal of successful plays under his belt, *Macbeth*'s first performance at the Globe Theatre was one of the latter of his career.

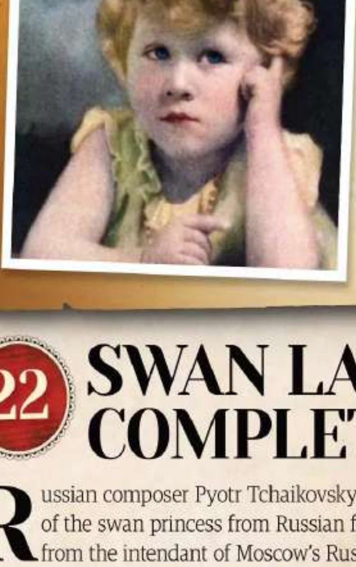
19

MARRIAGE OF LOUIS XVI OF FRANCE AND MARIE ANTOINETTE 1770

The future Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette had two wedding ceremonies. The first took place in Vienna on 19 April 1770 by proxy - the proper one was on 16 May. Marie Antoinette entered the gates of Versailles at 10am, and made her way to the Royal Chapel at 1pm where she finally met her husband. The archbishop of Reims conducted the ceremony and after, they headed to the Hall of Mirrors, which was lit up for the occasion. While the fireworks display was cancelled due to a storm, they still had an extravagant feast in the new Royal Opera House. Celebrations continued until 30 May, but on that last evening, fireworks on Place de la Concorde killed 132 people.

21

ELIZABETH II BORN 1926



Prince Albert, Duke of York, and later known as King George VI and Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon welcomed the future queen of Great Britain, Princess Elizabeth Alexandra Mary.

Queen Elizabeth II also celebrates a second public birthday in the summer, a tradition that King George II started in 1748

22

SWAN LAKE COMPLETED 1875

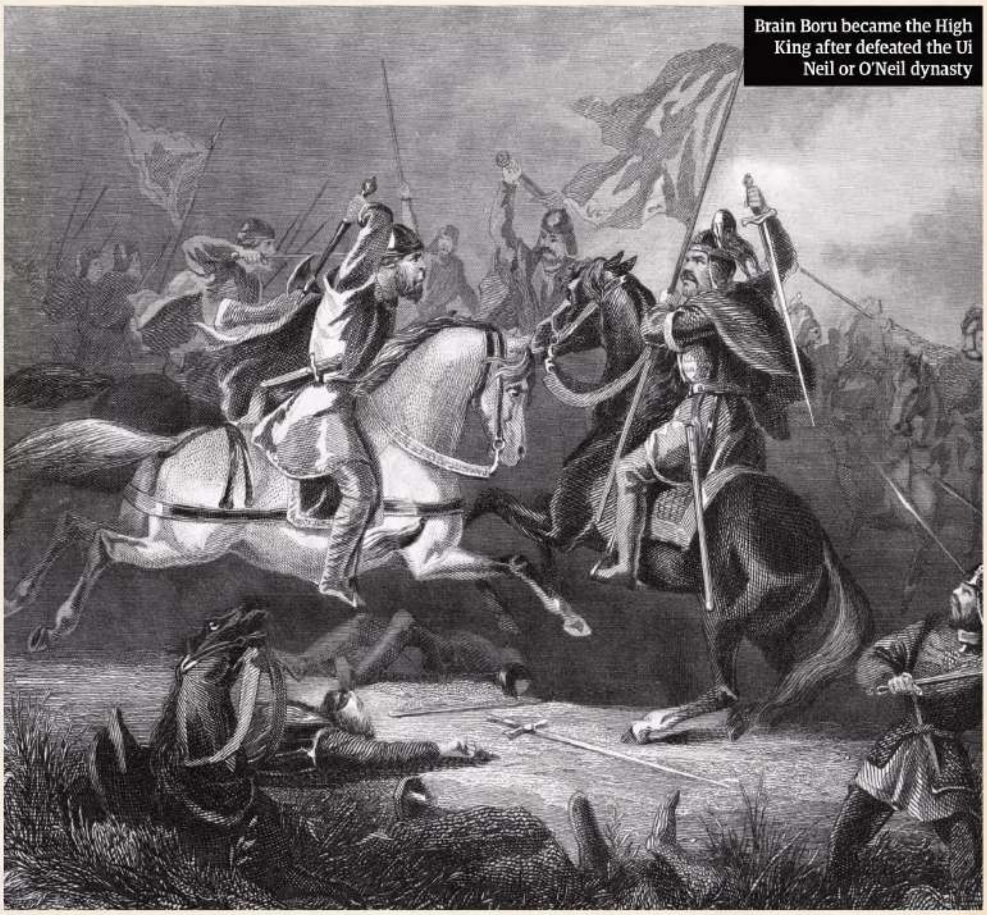
Russian composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky completed the iconic ballet of the swan princess from Russian folklore as a commission from the intendant of Moscow's Russian Imperial Theatres, Vladimir Petrovich Begichev.

Swan Lake was the first symphonic ballet to ever grace the stage

23

BATTLE OF CLONTARF 1014

As the sun rose over the horizon of Clontarf, Ireland, this April morning was met by the sound of metal clashed between the blades of over 10,000 men. Led by the last High King of Ireland, Brian Boru, an army of Irish soldiers and Viking allies came together to battle the opposing rebel forces led by Máel Mórda, king of Leinster, and Sitric Silkenbeard, king of Dublin. Men marched from Boru's native Munster, meeting their rivals near the coast north of the city Dublin. The battlefield was bathed in blood and many lost their lives. However, Boru's forces made way with their opposition, becoming victorious. It is believed that the day was a Good Friday, but some speculate this is a mere addition to historical records to liken the Christian king Brian Boru's victory to that of Christ's salvation of mankind.



Brain Boru became the High King after defeated the Ui Neil or O'Neil dynasty

24

WALLIS SIMPSON DIES 1986

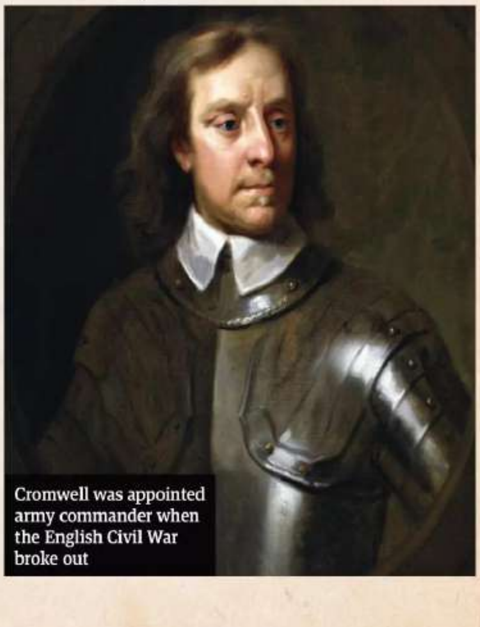
Time magazine in 1936 named Simpson the first "Woman of the Year"

She was at the centre of a royal scandal in the 20th century and a woman who felt the full force of the British press and disapproving royal family. Later known as the duchess of Windsor, Wallis was a well-known American socialite who went on to marry King Edward VIII, who abdicated from the throne in 1936 to make way for their marriage. Branded an adulterer, due to courtship with Edward coinciding with her second marriage, the newlyweds moved to Paris where she spent the rest of her days until she died of pneumonia aged 89.

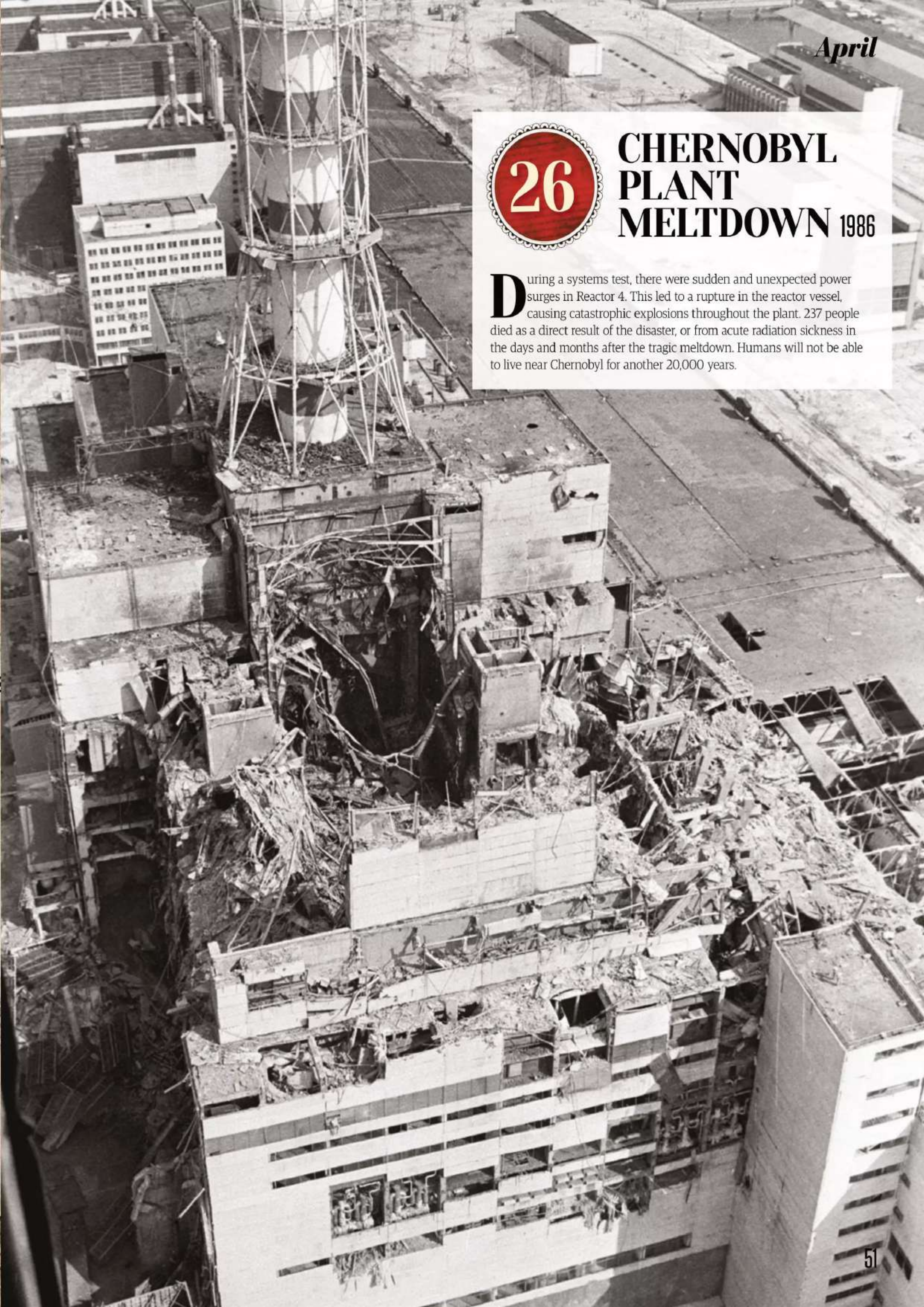
25

OLIVER CROMWELL BORN 1599

The future Lord Protector of England Oliver Cromwell was born in Huntington, England, to Robert and Elizabeth Cromwell. His father was a son to Sir Henry Cromwell of Hinchinbrook, a wealthy man within the district. Cromwell's affluent ancestry saw him attend Cambridge University and during his life he became a prolific statesman and solider. Also a Puritan, Cromwell's beliefs and views of the Church placed him firmly within politics and he spent his life in opposition of royal dominion in support of parliament's power.



Cromwell was appointed army commander when the English Civil War broke out



26

CHERNOBYL PLANT MELTDOWN 1986

During a systems test, there were sudden and unexpected power surges in Reactor 4. This led to a rupture in the reactor vessel, causing catastrophic explosions throughout the plant. 237 people died as a direct result of the disaster, or from acute radiation sickness in the days and months after the tragic meltdown. Humans will not be able to live near Chernobyl for another 20,000 years.

27 INTER-KOREAN SUMMIT 2018

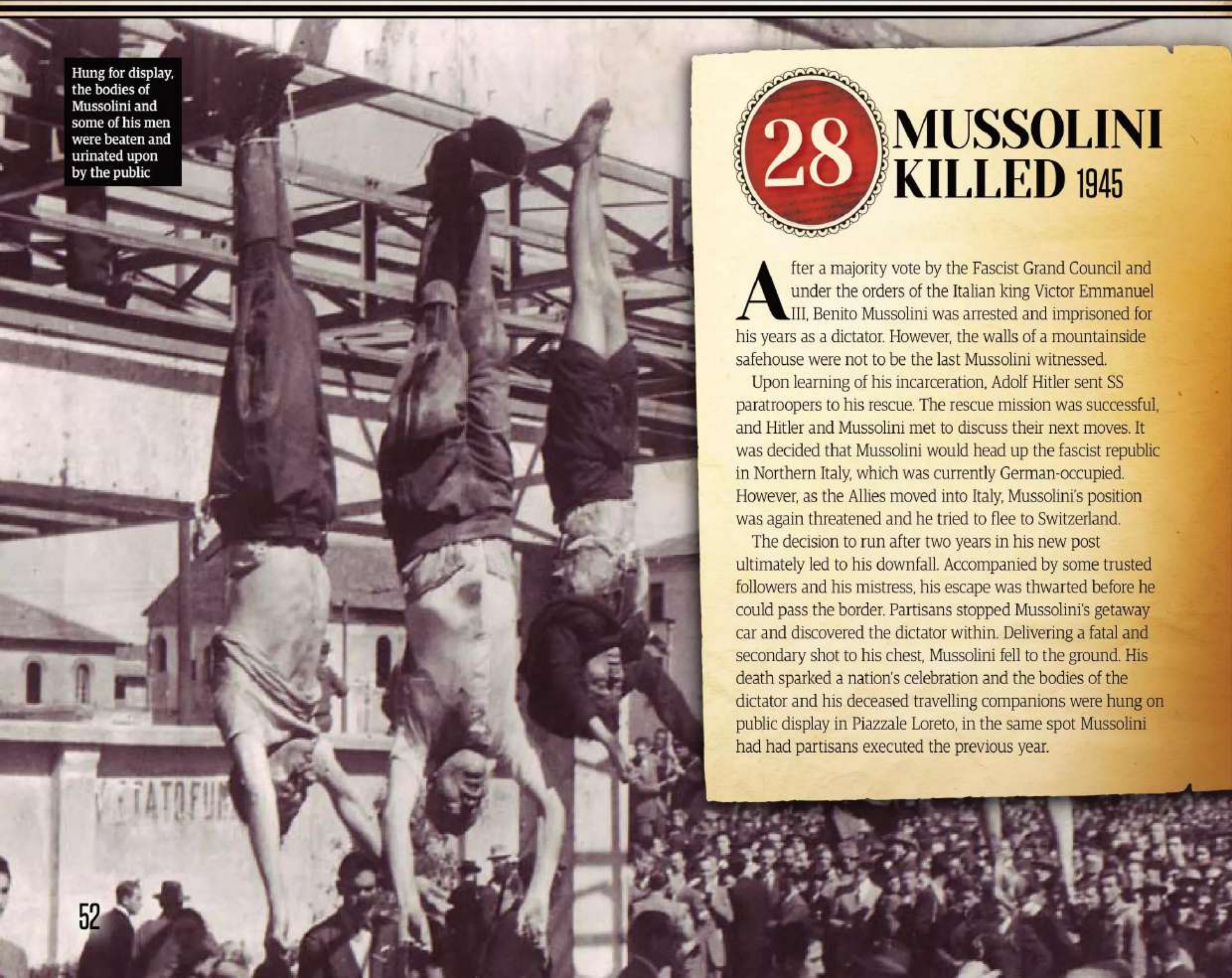
For the first time since the end of the Korean War, a ruler of North Korea entered the South on 27 April 2018. Kim Jong-un and Moon Jae-in, the leaders of the North and South respectively, met in the Peace House in the Demilitarised Zone that separates the two nations, shaking hands on the peace line in front of the cameras alongside their first ladies, South Korea's Kim Jung-sook and the North's Ri Sol-ju. Kim Jong-un then invited his South Korean counterpart to step over the border for the symbolic and historic moment.

Many promises were made as a result of the summit, including taking steps towards the denuclearisation of the North and the resumption of a scheme to reunite families that were split between the two halves of the peninsula.

The Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula was also signed by the two leaders. Its contents showed the determination by both Kim and Moon to see an end to the devastating Korean War that ended in a military stalemate and the birth of the Demilitarised Zone in July 1953 and the conflict that has plagued the Koreas for over half a century since as the two sides wrestle for dominance on the peninsula.

The meeting itself in the Peace House was drenched in symbolism. The oval table that the leaders met at was 2,018 millimetres long to represent the year of the meeting, and a tree-planting ceremony used soil and water from both sides of the border to represent the unity between the two nations.

The two leaders shake hands in the Peace House in the Demilitarised Zone that separates the Koreas



Hung for display, the bodies of Mussolini and some of his men were beaten and urinated upon by the public

28 MUSSOLINI KILLED 1945

After a majority vote by the Fascist Grand Council and under the orders of the Italian king Victor Emmanuel III, Benito Mussolini was arrested and imprisoned for his years as a dictator. However, the walls of a mountainside safehouse were not to be the last Mussolini witnessed.

Upon learning of his incarceration, Adolf Hitler sent SS paratroopers to his rescue. The rescue mission was successful, and Hitler and Mussolini met to discuss their next moves. It was decided that Mussolini would head up the fascist republic in Northern Italy, which was currently German-occupied. However, as the Allies moved into Italy, Mussolini's position was again threatened and he tried to flee to Switzerland.

The decision to run after two years in his new post ultimately led to his downfall. Accompanied by some trusted followers and his mistress, his escape was thwarted before he could pass the border. Partisans stopped Mussolini's getaway car and discovered the dictator within. Delivering a fatal and secondary shot to his chest, Mussolini fell to the ground. His death sparked a nation's celebration and the bodies of the dictator and his deceased travelling companions were hung on public display in Piazzale Loreto, in the same spot Mussolini had had partisans executed the previous year.

Braun's family had warned her of starting a relationship with Hitler as his previous mistress ended her life in suicide

29

ADOLF HITLER MARRIES 1945

She was a 17-year-old photography assistant with the Nazi Party and he was an aspiring Nazi dictator when Adolf Hitler and Eva Braun first met in 1929. Hitler always deemed himself "married to Germany", and so Braun would effectively be his mistress. Refusing to marry her for fear of losing admiration from his female supporters, it wasn't until they had spent 16 years together that he agreed to marriage.

The wedding of Hitler and Braun was a modest affair to say the least. The pair did not join in holy matrimony beneath the steeple of a church but within the four walls of Hitler's office. Void of any formal ceremony, their marriage began as more of a contractual agreement than an emotional celebration of their love for one another. Nevertheless, the champagne was plentiful, and along with some of Hitler's colleagues, the gathering toasted the union - but it wouldn't last long.

Russia's forces had begun to invade Berlin, and it was only a matter of time before they captured them. Braun had waited nearly two decades to marry the man that stood at the head of Germany, but only 36 hours after their wedding the pair joined one last time in an act to end their lives. In his bunker, Eva grabbed a bottle of cyanide and Hitler reached for a pistol. He had given strict instructions for their bodies to be coated in gasoline and set ablaze.

30

EMPEROR AKIHITO ABDICATES 2019

Bringing an end to 30 years of rule on the Chrysanthemum Throne, Emperor Akihito abdicated on 30 April 2019, closing Japan's Heisei era. His son and heir, Emperor Naruhito, took up his mantle, ushering in the Reiwa era.

Japanese emperors aren't known for abdicating - in fact, this is the first instance since 1817. It had been thought that Akihito would step down a few years before the event, with a rare televised speech in August 2016 mentioning his ailing health. The legislation needed for the event to occur was passed through the Japanese government in 2017, and things started to be put in place for his son's accession.

The abdication ceremony took place in the Matsu no Ma, or Hall of Pine, at the imperial palace. His reign had been the first by a Japanese emperor to have no influence on politics, and he was loved by his people.

© Prime Minister's Office of Japan

MAY

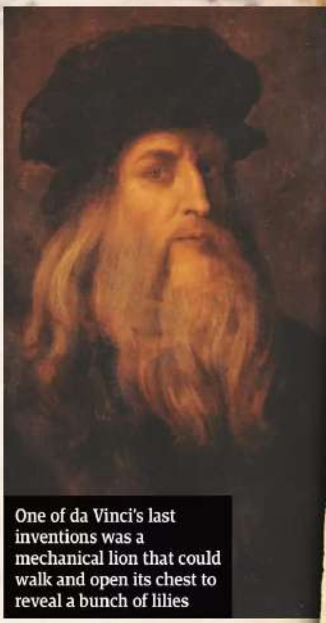
The US had been searching for bin Laden for a decade

01 BIN LADEN ASSASSINATED 2011

President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and members of the National Security Team watched the mission against Al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden unfold via drone imagery. Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, for which Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility, a reward of $25 million had been placed on bin Laden's head by the FBI. After a decade of searching, he was discovered staying with a family in Abbottabad, Pakistan. A raid was carried out by US Navy SEALS, and bin Laden was shot and killed. Upon hearing the news, Obama simply said, "We got him."

02 DA VINCI DIES 1519

Born in Florence in 1452, Leonardo da Vinci lived a life unparalleled, inventing and painting many famous works. Renowned for his ceaselessly curious mind, his creations included designs for an elaborate flying machine and sketches that provided a blueprint for a tank-like vehicle. But it was his work with the paintbrush that earned him immortality, with the instantly recognisable *Last Supper* and *Mona Lisa* known worldwide. Taken into the service of King Francis I of France in 1516, da Vinci dedicated his final years to science. It is widely believed that a stroke claimed the life of a man regarded as a universal genius.



One of da Vinci's last inventions was a mechanical lion that could walk and open its chest to reveal a bunch of lilies

03 ANNE FRANK HOUSE OPENS 1960

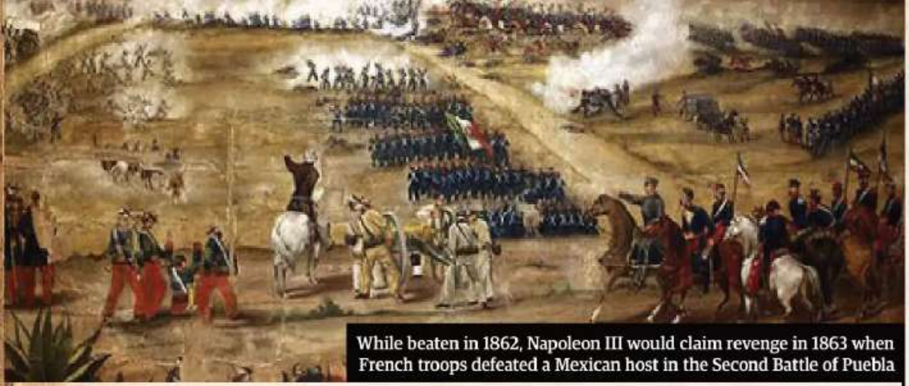
A reconstruction of the bookcase that hid the entrance to the Franks' hiding place

Situated on the bank of a canal in Amsterdam, the house in which Anne Frank and her family hid during World War II was spared destruction by a committed group of local citizens in 1957. Forced to flee Germany in the 1930s, Anne's Jewish family headed for the Netherlands. With the risk of discovery increasing, they went into hiding in a house near the Westerkerk in 1942, with young Anne beginning what would become a haunting and famous diary almost immediately. Today her final home receives 1.2 million visitors every year.

04 MARGARET THATCHER ELECTED AS PRIME MINISTER 1979

Having run her campaign based on the slogan 'Labour isn't working', Margaret Thatcher won the 1979 general election for the Conservative Party with a majority of 43 seats, becoming the first female British prime minister in history. The daughter of a greengrocer, Thatcher had embarked on a career in science before becoming a Member of Parliament in 1961. She won the right to lead her party in 1975.

The woman who would become known as the 'Iron Lady' is one of the most controversial figures in British political history



While beaten in 1862, Napoleon III would claim revenge in 1863 when French troops defeated a Mexican host in the Second Battle of Puebla

05

BATTLE OF PUEBLA

1862

Enraged at the decision of the recently installed Mexican president Benito Juárez to default on debts owed to France, in 1861 Napoleon III dispatched a fleet to begin an invasion of the financially ruined nation. By 5 May 1862, a force of 6,500 men was besieging the city of Puebla in eastern Mexico. In a humiliation for France, a determined army of 4,500 led by General Ignacio Zaragoza managed to rebuff three French assaults before Mexican cavalry fell upon the French flanks, forcing them to retreat. To this day Zaragoza is hailed a national hero.

07

THE SINKING OF RMS LUSITANIA 1915

As war raged across Europe, Germany took the unprecedented (and wholly illegal) step of declaring unrestricted submarine warfare in the water around Britain in February 1915. Yet despite this very obvious threat and numerous warnings by the British Admiralty, the captain of RMS Lusitania, at the time the world's fastest passenger liner, embarked on his journey from New York to Liverpool.

At 2.12pm on 7 May, the 32,000-ton ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat south of Ireland, the missile careering into its starboard side. Within 20 minutes the stricken vessel and 1,100 passengers slipped below the waves.

Public opinion in the US turned irreversibly against Germany after the sinking of Lusitania

08

VE DAY

1945

After almost six years of total war, Victory in Europe Day signified the defeat of Nazi Germany and sparked widespread jubilation throughout Europe.

Following Hitler's suicide in his Berlin bunker on 30 April, Admiral Karl Donitz had become Germany's new Führer. Realising that the war was lost, he wasted little time in negotiating a peace with the Allies, which was accepted by Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D Eisenhower on 7 May. General Alfred Jodel promptly put pen to paper to seal an unconditional surrender that came into effect the next day. 1 million people spilled onto the streets of Britain to celebrate the news.

MOUSSEC
VICTORY OVER GERMANY 1945

The term 'VE Day' was actually coined in 1944, such was the confidence in total victory as Germany's armies were forced back towards the Fatherland

The disaster was the first major transport catastrophe to be captured on film

06

THE HINDENBURG DISASTER 1937

A burst of flames flashed into the sky as the German passenger airship LZ 129 Hindenburg exploded during its attempt to dock with a mooring mast at the Lakehurst Naval Air Station, New Jersey, USA. There were 36 fatalities (13 passengers, 22 crewmen and one ground worker) and this disaster brought the short-lived age of airship travel to an abrupt end.

09

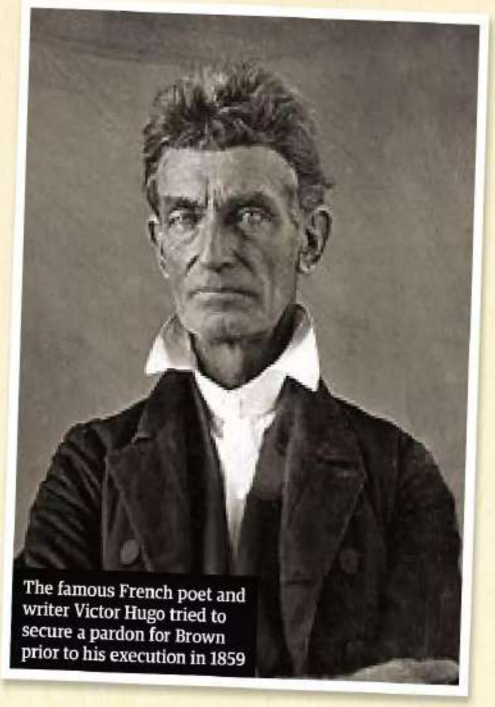
JOHN BROWN BORN 1800

Born to a cattle trader in Connecticut, John Brown would live a tragic yet ultimately transformative life.

Having left home at 16, Brown pursued a doomed career as a Congressional minister before setting up his own tannery. In 1820 he married his first wife, Dianthe Lusk, who would bear him seven children. Sadly for Brown, he would lose a son in 1831, then another along with his wife in 1832.

By 1833 he had remarried, but Brown was now stalked by debt, largely due to his business falling behind during a period of illness. With a string of ventures leading nowhere except towards bankruptcy, Brown's life took a radical turn in 1837 in the wake of the killing of Elijah P Lovejoy, a prominent anti-slavery minister. Henceforth dedicating his life "to the destruction of slavery", Brown embarked on a violent path, attacking supporters of slavery while enlisting "a small army".

In a bid to trigger a slave revolt by arming the oppressed, Brown and 21 comrades assaulted the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry in West Virginia on 16 October 1859. While the attack failed and Brown was later hung, many now believe his actions worsened relations between the South and the North, a divide that led to civil war.

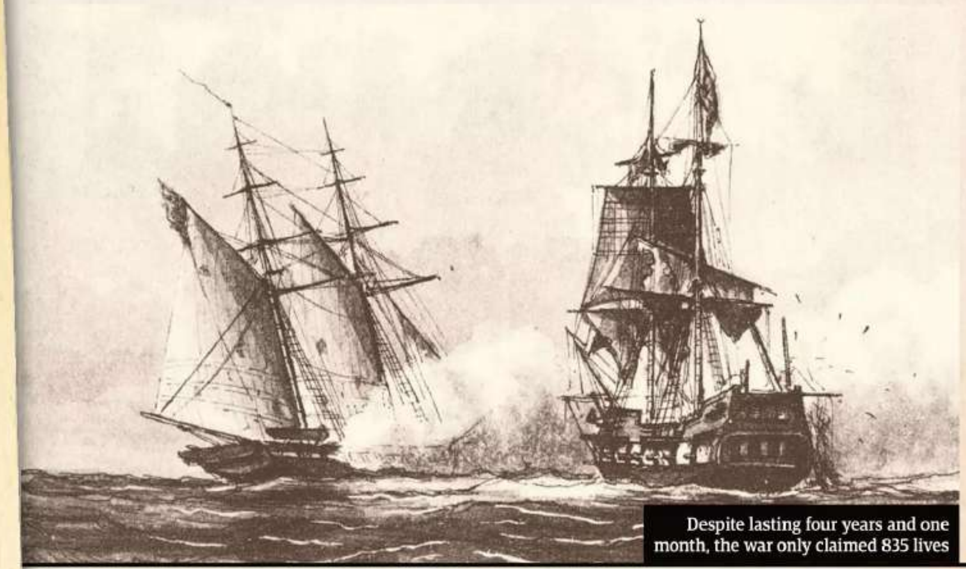


The famous French poet and writer Victor Hugo tried to secure a pardon for Brown prior to his execution in 1859

10

FIRST BARBARY WAR BEGINS 1801

The First Barbary War pitted the US and Sweden against four North African states know as the Barbary States: Tripoli, Algiers, Tunis and Morocco. The cause of the conflict was the tendency of Barbary pirates to capture European and American ships and then demand a ransom for the safe return of those onboard. To ensure safe passage for their vessels, some countries paid a tribute to the Barbaries. But when the Pasha of Tripoli demanded such payment from Thomas Jefferson in 1801 he was curtly rebuffed, inspiring the Pasha to scythe down the US flag outside the consulate in Tripoli and declare war. His rash fit of pique would end with the Americans seizing the city of Derna in 1805, a strategic triumph that forced the Barbary States to agree to peace.



Despite lasting four years and one month, the war only claimed 835 lives

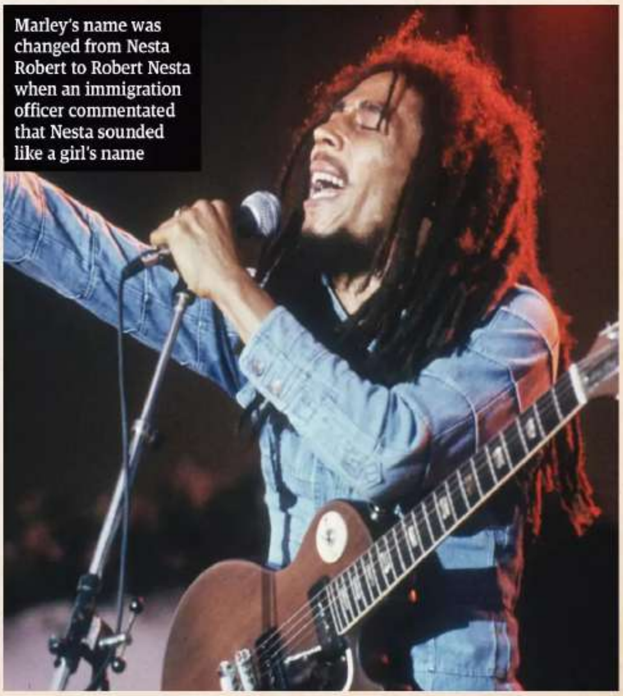
11

BOB MARLEY DIES 1981

Revered around the world as a reggae superstar and musical pioneer, the death of Bob Marley at just 36 came as a shock to both his fans and his industry.

During a short but enormously successful career, Marley sold over 75 million records, survived an assassination attempt by armed gunmen and fathered at least 11 children.

He died in Miami as a result of a malignant melanoma that originated in his toe before spreading to his lungs and brain. Ever the philosopher, he breathed his final words to his son Ziggy: "Money can't buy life." Yet his talent certainly bought immortality.

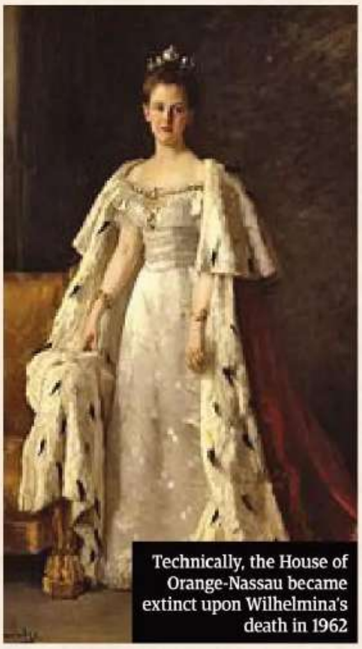


Marley's name was changed from Nesta Robert to Robert Nesta when an immigration officer commentated that Nesta sounded like a girl's name

12

QUEEN WILHELMINA ABDICATES 1948

In a broadcast to her subjects on 12 May 1948, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands declared that she would abdicate her throne that September in favour of her daughter, Juliana, heralding the end of her almost 58-year rule. During her reign, Wilhelmina maintained her country's neutrality throughout World War I and then became the embodiment of resistance when Germany invaded her country in May 1940 in the early years of World War II. Having encouraged her people to resist, she fled to England along with her family. Throughout her exile she used Radio Orange to keep the flames of protest burning at home.


Technically, the House of Orange-Nassau became extinct upon Wilhelmina's death in 1962

Jamestown was the capital of the Virginia colony until 1699, when the capital was relocated to Williamsburg

13

JAMESTOWN CHOSEN 1607

Having set sail from England in December 1606, 104 English travellers landed on the shores of America in 1607. Mindful of the fate that had befallen the previous English settlement (founded on Roanoke Island in 1585), they wasted little time in establishing the most suitable location in which to begin life in the New World. On 13 May they selected Jamestown (after King James I), a site surrounded by water and far enough inland as to be defensible against Spanish incursions. By 15 June they had finished constructing a fort, cementing their position and providing future settlers with a home.

14

SMALLPOX VACCINE 1796

Smallpox has plagued humans from prehistory and the mission to defeat variola eventually led to the first successful eradication of a disease. The distinctive smallpox rash was the first symptom of the deadly virus as it destroyed tissue and crushed the immune system, leading to painful raised skin lesions filled with thick fluid in a matter of days. The luckiest of patients would survive the incident but most survivors were left with disfiguring deep pitted scars. There was no cure and it usually claimed its victims in less than two weeks until British physician Edward Jenner started his research on developing a vaccine.

Jenner's work not only led to the prevention of smallpox in millions of people, but formed the basis of the life-saving vaccines that are available to us today. The Englishman was aware of the folklore that said milkmaids didn't catch smallpox, but he noticed they would catch a similar virus from the cows known as cowpox. In 1796, he extracted the pus from a cowpox blister, cut the arm of a young boy and pushed the fluid into the wound. When the child was later exposed to smallpox, he was immune. Jenner realised it was possible to create a preventative vaccination by inducing an immune response to a similar but less deadly disease. Scientists had yet to discover viruses, but Jenner's forward-thinking solution meant that he was still able to solve the problem despite not fully understanding the mysterious microbes. 30 years after his death in 1823, the smallpox vaccination was made compulsory, with the disease finally being globally eradicated by 1980.

Inoculation with a safer, similar virus meant the immune system was tricked into producing antibiotics that would protect against the more deadly disease

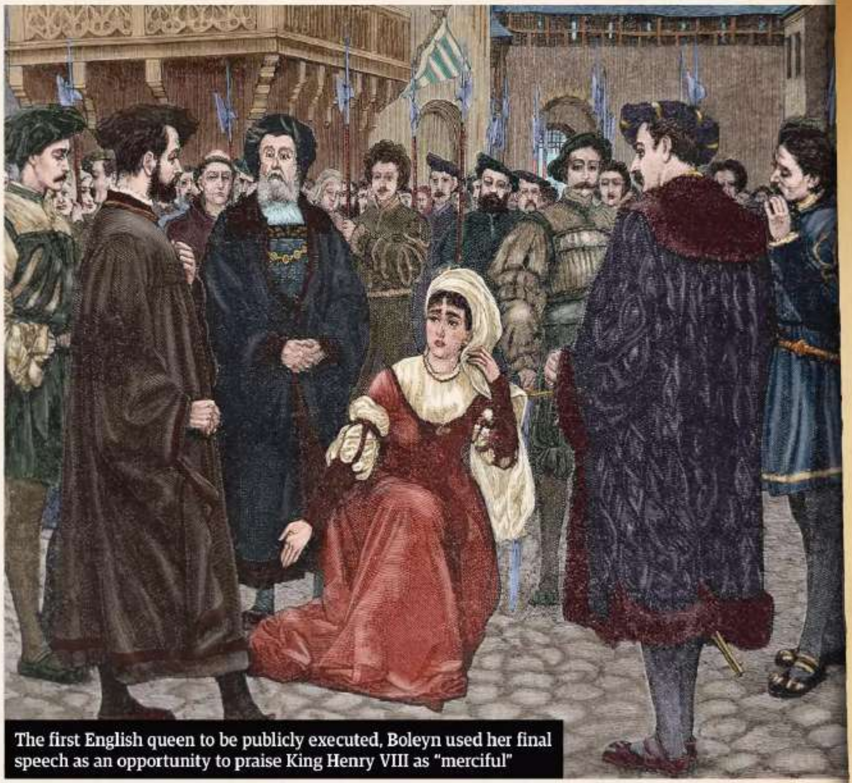
15

ANNE BOLEYN'S TRIAL 1536

Having been unable to bring to full term the male heir that King Henry VIII so craved, by 1536 Anne Boleyn, having miscarried again, found herself becoming increasingly expendable. Her misfortune would ultimately sign her death warrant.

Mistrusted by many close to the king, with Thomas Wolsey labelling her a "night crow" that whispered poison into the monarch's ears, Boleyn had fallen a long way since her controversial marriage to a once-besotted Henry in 1533. Accused of adultery, incest (with her brother George) and treason, she was arrested on 2 May and tried 13 days later before 2,000 spectators at the Tower of London. Standing before a jury that despised her, Anne's not guilty plea fell on biased ears. She was sentenced to death along with her sibling and four other 'conspirators'.

The cold kiss of the executioner's blade came on 19 May before most of the king's council, Thomas Cromwell (who some historians today believe had a hand in Boleyn's downfall), the mayor of London and a selection of other prestigious citizens. Courageous in the face of the cruel fate about to befall her, Boleyn's stoic final words begged God to "have pity on my soul".



The first English queen to be publicly executed, Boleyn used her final speech as an opportunity to praise King Henry VIII as "merciful"

Jackson was taught the moonwalk by two dancers: Cooley Jaxson and Casper Candidate

16

THE KING OF POP REVEALS THE MOONWALK 1983

Appearing on the Motown 25 TV special to commemorate a quarter of a century of the famous record label, Michael Jackson stunned a captivated audience when he appeared to glide backwards across the stage while performing 'Billie Jean' using a move known as the moonwalk. The crowd exploded in a cacophony of shouts and cheers, and when Jackson finished his routine he was mobbed by his brothers and other Motown megastars.

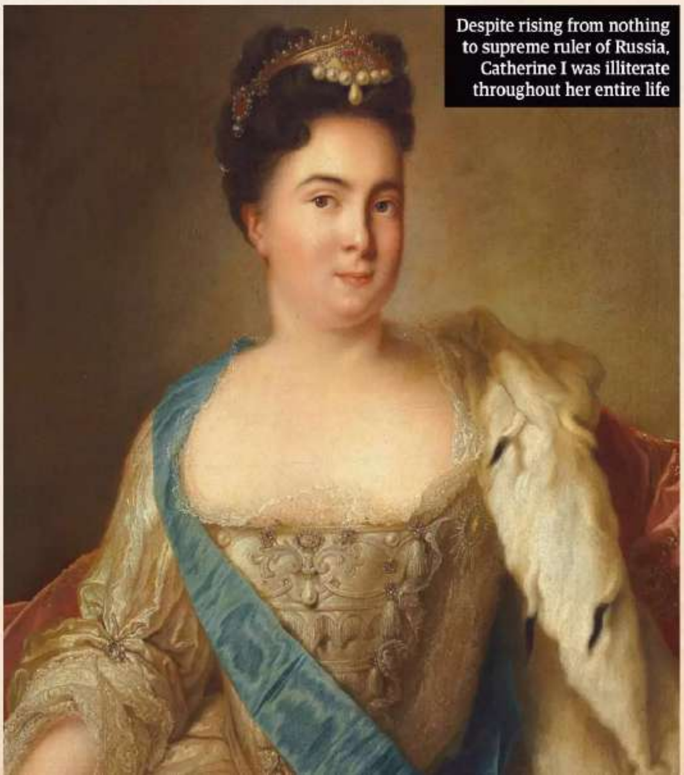
The next day, Jackson received a call from Fred Astaire, the legendary dancer exclaiming, "You're a helluva mover. You put the audience on their ASS last night."

17

CATHERINE I DIES 1727

Born Marta Skowronska in April 1684 to a peasant family, the first woman to rule Imperial Russia was orphaned at three years old and taken into the custody of a pastor in Marienburg (now in Latvia). Taken captive in 1702 when the Russians claimed the city, Marta found herself within the inner circle of Peter I, tsar of Russia.

Having quickly fallen for each other, they had their first child in 1703 and married in 1712, by which point Marta had been rechristened as Catherine. She would replace her husband as ruler of Russia upon his death in 1725, but tuberculosis would put an end to her rule and life in 1727.

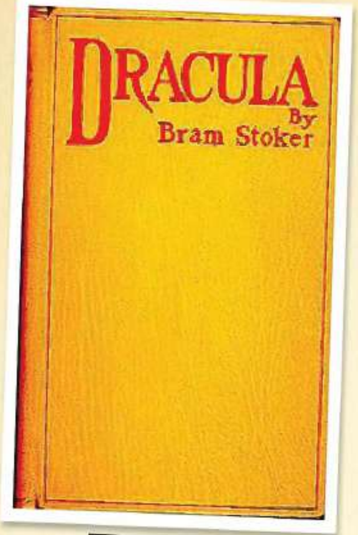


Despite rising from nothing to supreme ruler of Russia, Catherine I was illiterate throughout her entire life

18

DRACULA PUBLISHED 1897

Originally bound in yellow cloth and embossed with red letters, the first 3,000 copies of *Dracula* were printed by Archibald Constable and Company. When it was published in London on 18 May 1897 at a cost of six shillings it was not an immediate hit with readers, despite being hailed as a masterpiece by critics. The seminal work of Irish author Bram Stoker, the book introduced the infamous character of Count Dracula and later spawned a wealth of vampire fantasy tales. Although now viewed as a classic, *Dracula* didn't make Stoker a wealthy man - he died penniless in 1912.



The original title was 'The Un-Dead', but it was changed just a few weeks before the book first went to print

19

HARRY AND MEGHAN MARRY 2018

Harry and Meghan leave St George's Chapel after their wedding ceremony

St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle was filled to the brim with royals, aristocrats and celebrities on 19 May 2018 to watch Prince Harry, who had just been made the duke of Sussex, wed his fiancée, the American former actress Meghan Markle.

The couple's much-anticipated engagement had been announced on 27 November 2017, just over a year after they had formally acknowledged their relationship to the public. Due to Prince Harry being fifth in line to the throne at the time, he had to seek permission from Queen Elizabeth II to marry, and this consent was formally announced to the Privy Council on 14 March 2018.

Serving as best man was Prince Harry's older brother, Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, and the bride was accompanied down the aisle by her father-in-law-to-be, Prince Charles, Prince of Wales. Through her marriage, Meghan became the duchess of Sussex, and the couple have since had a son, Archie Harrison Mountbatten-Windsor.

20

AN ERUPTION BEGINS 1980

A thick carpet of ash coated the state of Washington two days after the eruption of Mount St Helens in 1980. The first major volcanic event to occur in the United States since the turn of the 20th century, it has since been hailed as the most destructive eruption in American history. The eruption began on 20 March when a 4.2-magnitude earthquake shook the ground. The volcano spewed ash over 11 other states, reduced hundreds of square miles of countryside into wasteland and 57 people died of asphyxiation.

The ash cloud rose to about 6,000 feet when the volcano fully erupted on 27 March 1980

21

AMERICAN RED CROSS FOUNDED 1881

A humanitarian organisation that seeks to help those affected by the ravages of war and natural disasters, the American Red Cross was established in 1881 by a nurse who had seen first-hand the chaos that violence can wreak.

By the time that Clara Barton, 60, founded the American wing of the Red Cross, she had already tended to the needs of the wounded in the American Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War in the early 1870s, learning of the International Red Cross during her time in Europe. Realising the potential of bringing the model to the US, she set about establishing its first headquarters in New York. Since then it has provided aid for millions of people across the globe and today responds to an emergency every eight minutes.

Barton became a teacher at just 15 and helped to create a free public school in New Jersey

Referendum
Information and Notices
Click here for Result Details
% Turnout 60.52
Yes/Tá 62.07
No/Níl 37.93

Supporters of same-sex marriage celebrate the referendum result

22

IRELAND VOTES TO LEGALISE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE 2015

It was a long road to get to the 34th Amendment to the Constitution of Ireland, which would see the legalisation of same-sex marriage in a country often seen as fiercely Catholic. As many expected, many religious organisations were against the change in law, but on this occasion they were up against strong opposition.

In total, 60.52% of eligible voters turned out, and 62.07% of them were in favour of allowing same-sex marriage. It was a historic moment not just in Ireland, but in the world - it was the first time a state was going to legalise same-sex marriage as a result of a popular vote.

Signed into law by Irish president Michael D Higgins on 29 August 2015, the act came into force on 16 November and the first marriages took place the very next day.

23

BONNIE AND CLYDE KILLED 1934

Suspected of at least 13 murders and countless armed robberies, it's fair to say that the bloody fate that befell Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow on 23 May 1934 probably came as a relief to US law enforcement. The most notorious criminal couple of the 1930s, Bonnie and Clyde ran riot across the United States from 1932 to 1934 as the nation laboured through the Great Depression. Despite not reflecting their glamourised portrayal by the press, the pair posed a grave threat to the public and police, for they appeared to have no qualms about shooting either. By committing their crimes in various states they deftly manipulated the laws that prevented officers in one jurisdiction from pursuing them into another. However, they committed one key mistake: they were predictable.

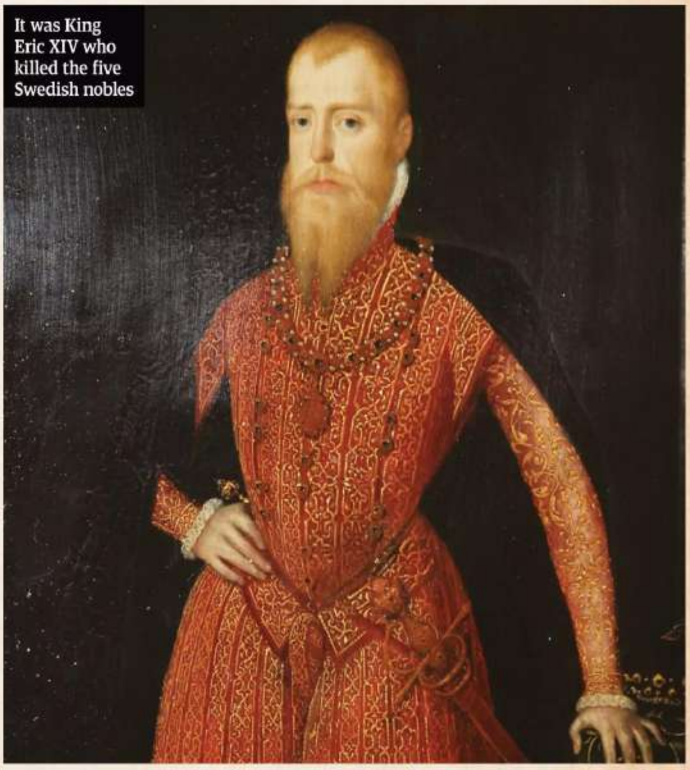
A Texas Ranger by the name of Frank Hamer examined the pair's movements and quickly deduced where they were likely to be heading that May morning, although he was almost certainly helped by Clyde's former associated Henry Methvin. Positioning himself and three colleagues behind bushes at the side of a rural road in Louisiana, the armed officers waited for Clyde to pull his Ford V8 offer and engage in a conversation with Methvin's father, who'd been deliberately planted as a distraction. Bursting forth from their place of concealment, the men fired 130 shots, a rain of death that finally put an end to the fabled felons.

Bonnie and Clyde met in 1930 at the house of a friend of Clyde. They instantly fell in love with each other and committed numerous robberies and murders before their own deaths in 1934

24

SWEDEN'S STURE MURDERS 1567

In a bout of madness, King Eric XIV of Sweden killed his five prisoners and some of his own guards in what became known as the Sture Murders. The incarcerated nobles, three of who were from the renowned Sture family, had initially been arrested for conspiring against the king. Having stabbed the five prisoners to death with his own dagger, Eric turned on his own tutor, Dionysius Beurreus, who had been trying to calm the king, and issued an order to have him killed. The king then disappeared into the nearby woods, where he was found three days later, still in a disturbed state.



It was King Eric XIV who killed the five Swedish nobles

25

240 BCE

HALLEY'S COMET SPOTTED

The first recorded sighting of Halley's Comet was in the Chinese chronicle *Records of the Grand Historian*. It described a long-tailed star that moved across the heavens from east to north.

1521

DIET OF WORMS ENDS

The assembly (Diet) of the Holy Roman Empire at the city of Worms (in Germany) concluded with Protestant reformer Martin Luther being declared a heretic and an outlaw. Martin Luther fled to Wartburg castle.

1895

OSCAR WILDE CONVICTED

After rashly (and unsuccessfully) suing the marquess of Queensbury for libel, for calling him a "posing somdomite" [sic], Oscar Wilde left himself open to prosecution for homosexuality. He was sentenced to two years hard labour.

1925

EVOLUTION CHALLENGED

High school teacher John Scopes was indicted in Tennessee for teaching the theory of evolution. The case was orchestrated by the American Civil Liberties Union to test the Butler Act, which had banned evolution from the US curriculum.

1953

NUCLEAR ARTILLERY TEST

The US conducted its only test of a nuclear artillery shell. It was fired by the M65 'Atomic Annie' cannon. Nuclear artillery has now been almost entirely replaced by tactical missiles.

1961

APOLLO CHALLENGE

President Kennedy proposed to Congress that America "should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to the Earth".

1977

STAR WARS OPENS

Star Wars: Return of the Jedi opened in 43 US theatres and took $1.5 million in its first weekend. It went on to be the tenth highest ever box office success in the US.

Such was Ford's commercial success that by 1918 half of all cars in America were Model Ts

26 THE FINAL FORD T 1927

On a sad day for the history of motor cars, Henry Ford and his son Edsel drove the last ever Ford T out of the Ford factory, a drive that heralded the end of a car that had revolutionised both American society and the wider world.

Committed to making the ownership of a car more than just a fantasy, Henry Ford established the Ford Motor Company in 1903 and released his Model T vehicle in 1908. Simple to drive and cheap to repair, the Model T was an instant hit with drivers, who had to part with $850 to purchase one (prices fell consistently after the car first hit the roads).

While his cars were connecting the country, Ford's first moving assembly line, completed in 1913, would change the way factories around the globe worked forever more. Yet despite the enormous success he enjoyed, by 1927 Ford had been surpassed by makers such as Chrysler, which offered even more affordable cars to a booming market. An era of dominance for a car known as 'Tin Lizzy' had come to the end of the road.

27 CHRYSLER BUILDING OPENED 1930

At 319 metres, the Chrysler Building was the tallest man-made structure in the world when it opened its doors in 1930 and provided a home from Chrysler Corporation until the mid-1950s. Designed by William Van Alen and funded by car magnate Walter P Chrysler so that his children could inherit it, the building features 77 floors, 32 elevators and 3,862 windows. It required 3,826,000 bricks and 29,961 tons of steel to construct at a cost of $20 million. Today it remains the tallest brick building on Earth and is 90 per cent owned by the Abu Dhabi Investment Council.

The Chrysler Building was sold in 1953 to real estate mogul William Zeckendorf for $18 million

King for less than a year, Edward was a scandalous figure known for his galavanting with married women and harbouring Nazi sympathies

28 EDWARD VIII DIES 1972

Still the only British monarch to abdicate the throne voluntarily, King Edward VIII died from throat cancer in Paris in 1972 having lived a rather extraordinary life.

The first son of King George V, Edward was born in Surrey in 1894. At the age of 13 he attended naval college and later witnessed trench warfare when he visited the front lines during World War I. However, arguably the greatest conflict of his life came in late 1936 when he was given the choice of his throne or the love of his life, Wallace Simpson.

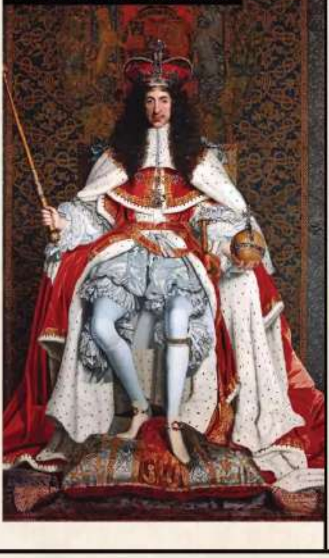
Having been informed by the incumbent prime minister, Stanley Baldwin, that the nation would never accept Simpson as his queen, Edward took the unprecedented step of giving up his right to rule, triggering a scandal that rocked the nation. Yet despite the upheaval he caused, by the time Edward passed away 36 years later he had become a well-liked figure who was mourned by his former subjects.

29

RESTORATION OF THE MONARCHY 1660

In one of history's greatest ironies, the English monarchy was restored from 1660 after Oliver Cromwell had proven to be just as controlling a ruler as the king he had fought so hard to remove during the English Civil War.

With the populace growing restless under the strict rule of Cromwell, parliament opted to open negotiations with Charles II, proposing the reinstitution of the monarchy on the understanding that the future king abided by rules that introduced religious tolerance and pardoned those who had committed crimes during the Civil War. Charles replied with the Declaration of Breda, in which he vowed to uphold the agreement. On 29 May 1660, he returned to London from his exile in the Netherlands and was crowned in April of the following year. England had a king once more.


After his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651, Charles II had to hide inside an oak tree in order to avoid falling into Parliamentarian hands

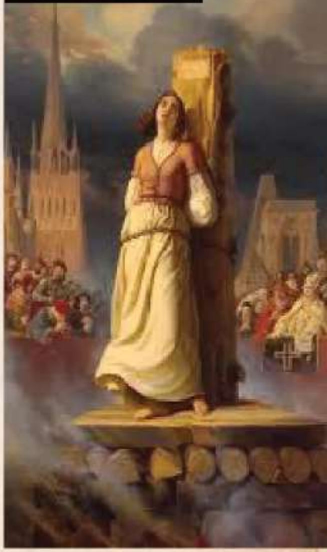
30

JOAN OF ARC BURNED AT THE STAKE 1431

Born in Domremy, France, in 1412, the girl who would one day become a saint spent her early years on a farm tending to animals and honing her skills with a needle and thread. Then the visions began.

Claiming that Archangel Michael and two saints were encouraging her to support Charles VII in his struggled against England for the right to rule France, a confident Joan managed to secure an audience with the future king. While not wholly convinced of her divine messages, Charles clad Joan in armour and sent her to the Siege of Orléans in May 1429. When the French army succeeded in ousting the English (who had begun their attack on the town in October 1428) just nine days later, Joan's reputation soared. However, her next tasted of action would not end so well.

Captured at the Siege of Compiègne, Joan was tried for heresy and then burned at the stake in Rouen. The 19-year-old's ashes were cast into the Seine, but her legacy has lived on to this day.


Heralded as a national hero, Joan of Arc never actually fought in a battle, although she was wounded by an arrow and a crossbow

31

BATTLE OF JUTLAND 1916

In the only major naval battle of World War I, the British Royal Navy clashed with its German counterpart in a meeting that would cost thousands of lives, numerous ships and force the German navy out of action for the rest of the war.

Realising that the British blockade of Germany was draining the country's ability to maintain its war effort, Admiral Reinhardt von Scheer decided to sail across the North Sea and assault the Royal Navy ships harboured in Plymouth and Portsmouth.

In response to this grave provocation, Admiral Sir John Jellicoe commanded the Grand Fleet sail out to meet them. His ships located the German fleet on 31 May, but the battle started badly for Britain as three battle cruisers were sent below the waves. Yet despite their initial success, the Germans knew they couldn't hope to sustain the attack and instead sailed north. Spotting a chance to cut them off, Jellicoe sent his cruisers south and awaited the Germans' return.

By the time the cannons fell silent, Germany had lost 11 ships and 2,551 dead, while Britain's fleet limped home having seen 14 ships and over 6,000 men sent to the bottom of the ocean.

Having been all but put out of action at Jutland, the German Imperial Navy was powerless to lift the British blockade that was slowing strangling Kaiser Wilhelm II's realm

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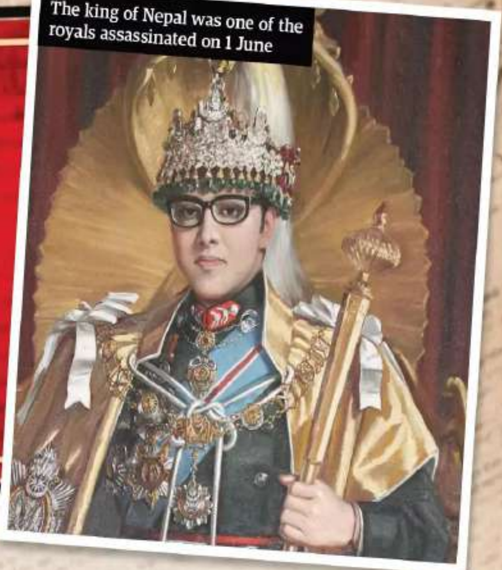
JUNE


The king of Nepal was one of the royals assassinated on 1 June

01 NEPALESE ROYAL MASSACRE 2001

In a horrific bloodbath, Crown Prince Dipendra of Nepal opened machine gun fire on his own family while they attend a reunion dinner at the Narayanhity Palace, Kathmandu. After killing nine important royal family members, the crown prince turned the gun on himself and died three days later in a coma. It's not completely certain what caused Dipendra to go on such a rampage, but it is widely believed that he was angry with his parents for not wanting him to marry Devyani Rana, a woman whose family were lower-status royalty from India.

The body of Queen Aishwarya being taken to her funeral pyre after the massacre

02 THE LONGEST REIGNING MONARCH IS CROWNED 1953

In 1937, Princess Elizabeth's life changed forever. When her uncle, Edward VIII, abdicated the throne, her father stepped into the role of king, thrusting an 11-year-old Elizabeth into the role of heir presumptive. 16 years later, it was time for her to take the crown.

Westminster Abbey played home to the occasion, as with all other coronations, and it was a grand affair. The first to be broadcast live on television, it also involved a two-mile-long procession that took 45 minutes to pass. But it wasn't just her procession that was long - on 9 September 2015, the queen became the longest serving monarch in British history.

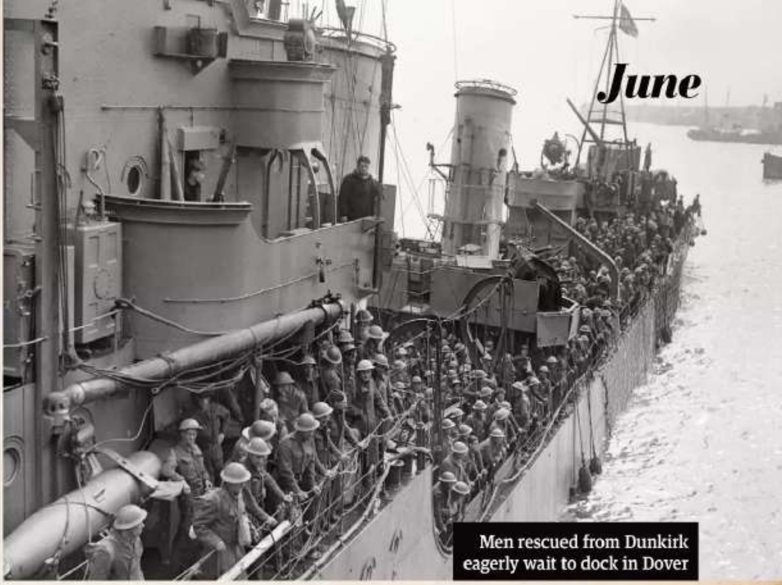
Queen Elizabeth II is the longest reigning monarch in British history

03 THE SHOOTING OF ANDY WARHOL 1968

On 3 June 1968, Warhol was nearly killed by writer Valerie Solanas at his studio. She shot at him three times, the first two missing before the third struck. The bullet pierced both the artist's lungs, as well as passing through his spleen, stomach, liver and oesophagus. Solanas also shot art critic Mario Amaya and attempted to shoot Warhol's manager, Fred Hughes, before turning herself into the police.

A fringe figure at The Factory, Solanas had asked Warhol to produce her play *Up Your Ass* in 1966. She later accused him of losing her script and demanded financial compensation, so Warhol cast Solanas in his 1967 film *I, a Man*. That same year, Solanas began self-publishing her defining work, the radical feminist *SCUM Manifesto* - short for 'Society for Cutting Up Men'. When Olympia Press boss Maurice Girodias offered her a book deal, Solanas grew concerned this would mean he would own the rights to her writing. Developing a paranoid fantasy that Girodias and Warhol were conspiring against her, Solanas bought a gun in 1968. As a result of his injuries, Warhol had to undergo a five-hour emergency operation and wear a surgical corset for the rest of his life. Warhol's near-death experience may have inspired his 1981 silkscreen *Gun*, featuring a .22 snub-nosed pistol, similar to Solanas' weapon. This was part of a series of 232 works by Warhol depicting firearms.

Solanas was diagnosed with schizophrenia soon after



Men rescued from Dunkirk eagerly wait to dock in Dover

04 THE DUNKIRK EVACUATION 1941

By 1941, it seemed almost as if the Nazis might win World War II. They invaded the Low Countries, and had managed to break the Allied line, marching straight into the heart of France. Many Allied troops were stationed in northern France, as they knew it was the last bastion before the Nazis could launch an invasion of Britain.

However, Hitler had surrounded the British, French, Belgian and Commonwealth troops on the continent. Reluctantly, Britain decided to withdraw its men, but could only do so from the beach at Dunkirk. A long, open stretch of sand, it meant the soldiers would be sitting ducks for Nazi warplanes. They didn't hold out much hope - it was estimated that only 30,000 troops would be lifted, out of over 300,000 that were stranded on the beaches.

In one of the most pivotal decisions of World War II, Hitler delayed the tank attack and land invasion of Dunkirk by three days (possibly due to poor weather), allowing the Allies to plan their escape. Operation Dynamo, as it became known, was launched on 27 May and lasted until 4 June. While the Luftwaffe harassed the rescue ships (many were civilian volunteers, who sailed out on their fishing boats to save their men and bring them back home), over 340,000 men made it off the beach and across the Channel. Most of the equipment had to be left behind, but the Allies still portrayed the event as a victory - Churchill dubbed it a "miracle of deliverance".

05 ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATED 1968

JFK's younger brother Robert was a hopeful politician looking to follow in his brother's footsteps and become president of the United States. After winning the California and South Dakota Democratic Party primaries, it seemed as if he was well on track to his goal.

In order to celebrate, he spoke at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles to a crowd of journalists and loyal supporters. While incumbent presidents were entitled to a full Secret Service bodyguard, as Robert Kennedy was simply a candidate, he only had three bodyguards on duty that night. To exit the building, the Democratic hopeful ended up going through a back exit - getting separated from his bodyguards.

This was where his killer, Sirhan Sirhan, attacked Kennedy. After he shook hands with busboy Juan Romero, Sirhan shot him with a revolver many times, and the presidential candidate fell to the floor. He asked Romero if everybody was okay, to which Romero replied that they were. "Everything's going to be alright," said Kennedy.

Kennedy died of his wounds the next morning. His funeral was attended by thousands of people, who lined his funerary train's route.

Juan Romero kneels over the dying Robert Kennedy after reassuring him that everything will be alright

Allied troops prepare to storm the beaches of northern France

06 THE BIGGEST INVASION 1944

On 6 June 1944, the Allied Troops under the direction of General Dwight D Eisenhower and Bernard Montgomery took the first step towards breaking Hitler's stranglehold on Europe with a massive assault on the French coast - the largest amphibious attack in history.

In the preceding months the Allies had mounted a decoy operation, Operation Fortitude, in an attempt to convince the Axis forces that they would attempt to cross at Pas de Calais, where the English Channel is narrowest. Meanwhile, Operation Overlord had been poised since 1 May but favourable weather conditions were vital to the plan's success. After being postponed several times, Operation Overlord finally went into effect and the Allied forces set foot on Normandy beaches at 6.30am.

The troops taking part in the amphibious assault comprised 72,215 British and Canadian soldiers, and 57,500 Americans. They were divided to attack five targets, designated Utah (US), Omaha (US), Gold (UK), Juno (Canada), and Sword (UK), over 80 kilometres of coastline. With its cliff-top bunkers, which had not suffered much damage from the preceding aerial bombardment, Omaha was the most heavily defended, and the attacking US forces took heavy casualties before taking the beach.

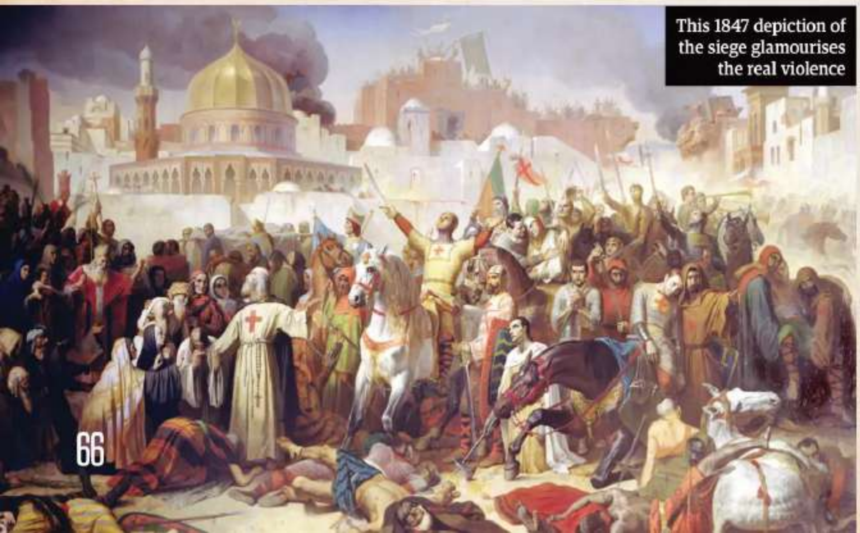
However, the decoy had worked. The German military was not alerted that an invasion was occurring until 4am. The attack did not just come from the sea, however. After midnight on 6 June, American, British and Canadian paratroopers were dropped into Normandy to facilitate the attack at Utah beach, which would give the Allies access to Cherbourg harbour. Due to the adverse weather conditions, many of the paratroopers missed their targets, but vital locations like Pegasus Bridge and the town of Sainte-Mère-Église would be captured.

At 6.pm, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced the successful invasion in the House of Commons. By midnight, each of the five beaches had been taken and the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany was well underway.

07

SIEGE OF JERUSALEM STARTS 1099

The First Crusade was a time of great religious enthusiasm. Over 30,000 men from Western Europe made the journey to the Holy Land, where they sought to reclaim Jerusalem from its Islamic encroachers, the Fatimid Caliphate. Beginning in June 1099, the Crusaders bombarded the city walls with soldiers and siege engines. In July, they won out, reclaiming the city and winning the First Crusade. But the crusaders massacred thousands of the city's inhabitants, butchery that shocked both the Muslim locals and Europeans back home alike. The bloody massacre was controversial even then.



This 1847 depiction of the siege glamourises the real violence

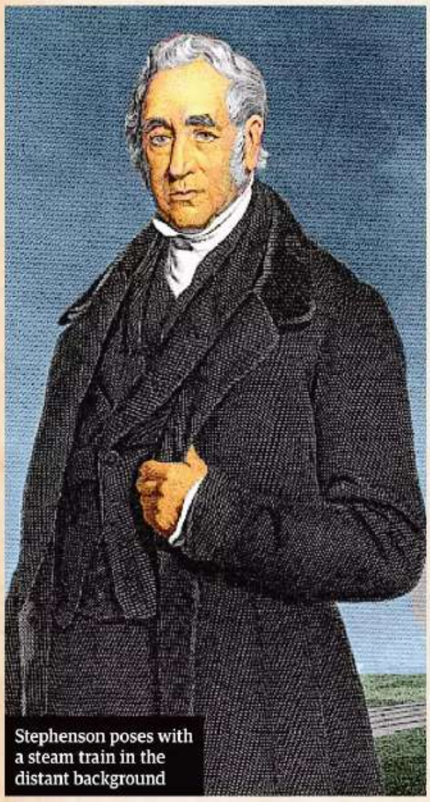
FIGHT ON & GOD WILL GIVE THE VICTORY

Davison's funeral was attended by 50,000 supporters

08 EMILY DAVISON TRAMPLED 1913

Emily Wilding Davison was one of the most active members of the Women's Social and Political Union, becoming one of the era's forefront campaigners for women's rights. She was known for her radical antics, including hunger striking and throwing stones through windows. To get attention for the cause, the suffragettes conducted many protests, especially when important figures would be in attendance. The Epsom Derby in 1913 was the perfect opportunity, as King George V was watching. Davison took her suffragette banners and placed herself at the corner of the track. Suddenly, she ran in front of the horses, and was knocked down and trampled. She died a martyr of the cause.

09 GEORGE STEPHENSON BORN 1781


Stephenson poses with a steam train in the distant background

In an era of rapidly improving technology, talented minds like George Stephenson could flourish. A coal miner's son, Stephenson showed a passion for learning, and developed an affinity with engines at his father's workplace. He started making inventions to make coal mining easier, including a locomotive in 1814. Within the next ten years, he had constructed the Stockton and Darlington railway - Britain's first public railway. In October 1829, his locomotive 'Rocket' won a competition, travelling at a record speed of 36 miles per hour. His work encouraged railway building across Europe and its then-colonies.

10 PRINCE PHILIP IS BORN 1921

The Queen's husband, Prince Philip, was born on the sunny island of Corfu in the dying days of the Greek monarchy, to Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark and Alice of Battenburg. Educated mostly in England, the Queen set eyes on this dashing naval officer (who was also her third cousin) when she was just 13, and he proposed to her when she was 20. As duke of Edinburgh, he has supported the Queen throughout her reign, and been instrumental in helping young people by setting up the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Prince Philip stands by Elizabeth II at their coronation

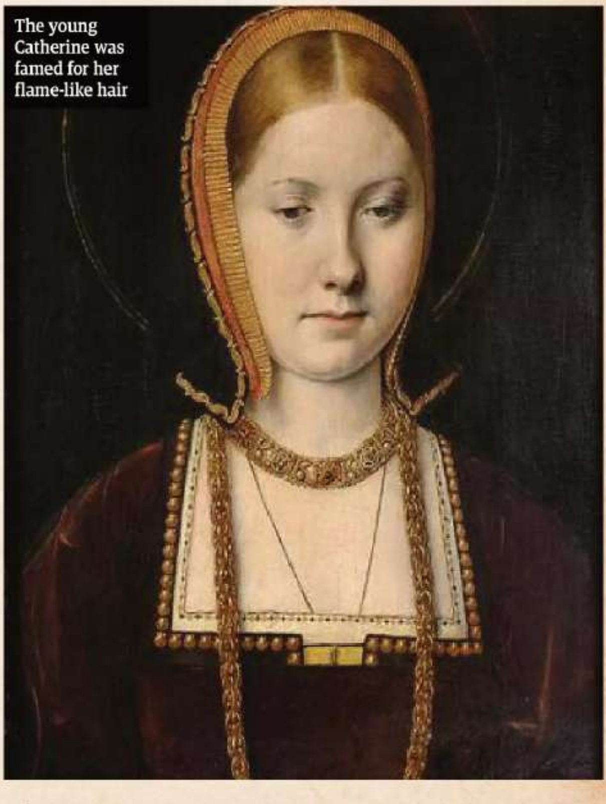
11 HENRY VIII MARRIES CATHERINE OF ARAGON 1509

"Divorced, beheaded, died" goes the song. Henry VIII's first wife, Catherine of Aragon, has gone down in history as the queen the king of England divorced to marry someone else. But despite what this might suggest about their relationship, the marriage of King Henry VIII and the Spanish princess was, on the whole, a very happy one.

The couple were wed in June 1509. Catherine had actually been married to Henry VIII's older brother, but he had died before the marriage was apparently consummated, meaning Catherine was eligible to marry again, according to Catholic rules. The marriage sealed the alliance between the Spanish and English crowns, and Henry was initially very pleased with his new bride, often writing how fond of her he was.

However, the birth of a stillborn daughter in 1510 signalled the start of Catherine's woes. She did give birth to a male heir the next year, but all of her children (except the future Mary I) died. Henry, frustrated with his wife's apparent inability to give him the son he desperately needed, turned his attention to other women - most notably, his second wife Anne Boleyn.

Henry asked for an annulment from the pope, but both Catherine and the pope resisted. So, Henry VIII created the Church of England, made himself the head of it, and divorced Catherine. Catherine left court in disgrace, and continued to deny the annulment for the rest of her life.


The young Catherine was famed for her flame-like hair

12

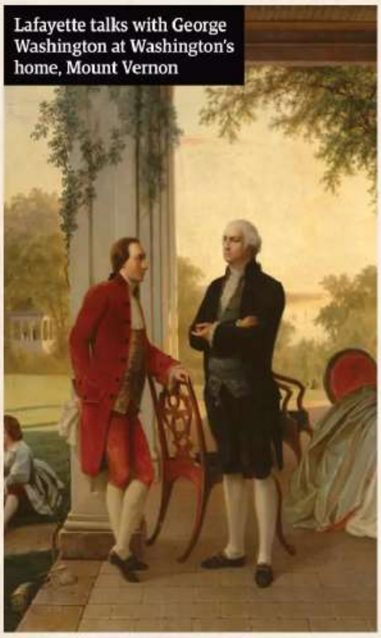
SINGAPORE SUMMIT 2018

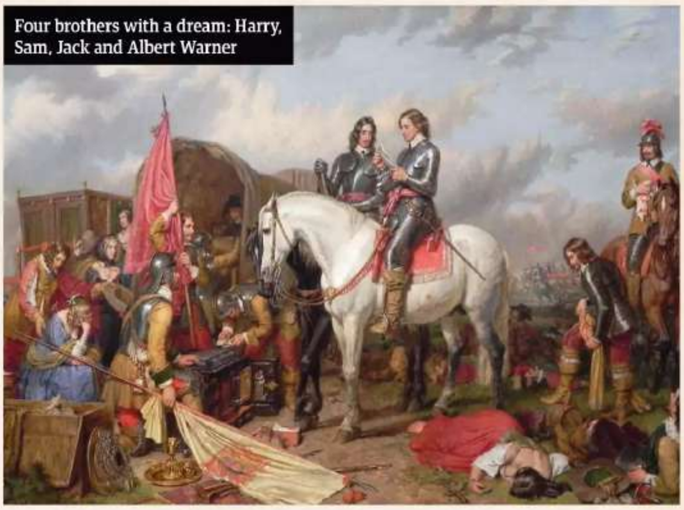
The first meeting between a Supreme Leader of North Korea and a president of the United States, the Singapore Summit saw Kim Jong-un and President Trump meet on the island of Sentosa. A 12-second handshake was followed by a closed meeting in which they were only accompanied by interpreters, and then an expanded bilateral meeting. The leaders then signed a joint statement to show their determination to improve North Korean-American relations and see peace on the Korean Peninsula once more.

13

LAFAYETTE ARRIVES IN AMERICA 1776

Like many revolutionaries in America, the marquis de Lafayette was young (aged just 19 when he made landfall in South Carolina) and hungry. What set him apart, however, was the fact that he was a French aristocrat, who possessed wealth the Founding Fathers could only dream of. Lafayette believed the American Revolution was noble in its ambitions, and resolved to help the 13 Colonies to free themselves from British rule. He commanded French and American troops in battle, and helped to draft the Declaration of Independence. In France and in America, he was revered as a hero.


Lafayette talks with George Washington at Washington's home, Mount Vernon


Four brothers with a dream: Harry, Sam, Jack and Albert Warner

14

BATTLE OF NASEBY 1645

During the English Civil War, English towns and cities were divided by their allegiance. Whether they were loyal to the king, or wanted to see parliament take power in Britain, taking sides was compulsory. So, when the Royalists stormed the Parliamentarian town of Leicester, Cromwell knew he had to take action. He sent his troops north from Oxford, where they engaged Charles I's forces at Naseby. Royalist losses were devastating - he lost most of his men, equipment and even some of his private papers - which Cromwell used as propaganda.

15

THE LAST KAISER'S CORONATION 1888

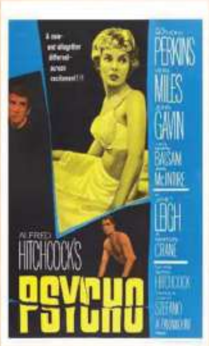
Wilhelm II was one of the most controversial German emperors, but he was also to be the last. Born in 1859, he was trained from a young age to be kaiser, and also completed some military service. It was this period in the army that shaped his later policy decisions, and led him to become one of the most militaristic monarchs the world has ever known.

Becoming kaiser at just 29, Wilhelm had to contend with one of Germany's greatest statesmen - Otto von Bismarck - for power. While Wilhelm admired him greatly, within two years the politician had been forced out of government by his kaiser. With nobody to question him, Wilhem was free to pursue his foreign policy goals. He greatly expanded the strength of the German army and navy, and decided to fight Britain in South Africa by proxy, so supported the Boers. He felt that Britain was the greatest military threat to Germany, and so he tried to weaken their position. In the lead up to the First World War, he had marked Germany out as an enemy not only of Britain, but also of both France and Russia, by trying to save Austria-Hungary from collapse at all costs.

He may not have realised that his actions ignited a deadly chain reaction leading to the outbreak of World War I, but they did. He later found himself pushed out of military decisions by his government. After the war was lost, Kaiser Wilhelm was forced to abdicate, and spent the rest of his life in the Netherlands, dreaming that he would be restored.

Wilhelm II dressed in a Prussian officer's uniform

16 PSYCHO PREMIERES 1960

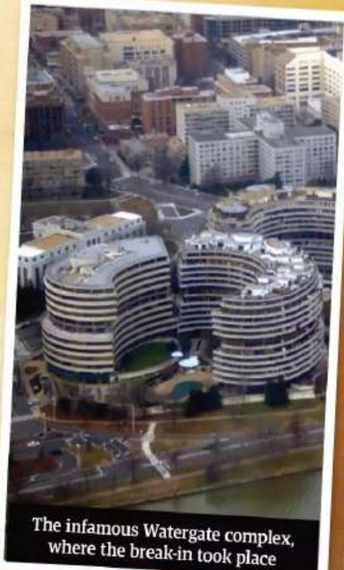


Alfred Hitchcock's career-defining picture, *Psycho*, premiered in New York in June 1960. The terrifying slasher flick told the story of a woman who wound up in a dodgy motel under the all-seeing eye of its creepy owner, Norman Bates. Initially, the film received a lukewarm reception - it surprised critics, as unlike previous Hitchcock movies such as *North by Northwest*, it was filmed in black and white and on a very low budget. After it premiered, viewers were shocked by the blood and gore it showed on screen, and many thought it was gratuitous. As time went on, it appeared that the film had set new precedents for on-screen sex and violence. In 1922, the Library of Congress decided to permanently preserve the film.

17 WATERGATE BREAK-IN 1972

In the depths of the night, police officers arrested five masked burglars at the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate Building in Washington, DC. It transpired that these men were linked to the Campaign to Re-Elect the President (CREEP for short), and had broken into the building to wiretap phones and steal documents.

President Nixon tried to cover up his involvement in the crime and play down the act, but after an investigation by two young journalists, evidence of his direct involvement in thwarting the democratic process became undeniable. In 1974, Nixon resigned before he could be impeached, changing how ordinary Americans viewed their president forever.


The infamous Watergate complex, where the break-in took place

18 AMELIA EARHART CROSSES THE ATLANTIC 1928

The aviation industry had made rapid progress since its germination at the start of the 20th century, and Amelia Earhart was one of its greatest pioneers. When she received a call in 1928 asking her to be the first female to fly over the Atlantic (albeit only as a passenger), she jumped at the chance.

With pilots Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon, their flight in a plane named 'Friendship' took 20 hours. The three landed in Burry Port, south Wales, with only a little fuel left. Earhart became an international celebrity after the crossing, which in turn spurred on her own career as a pilot.

FRIENDSHIP
Friendship, the plane that took Earhart across the ocean, was made by German manufacturers Fokker

19 BORN ON THIS DAY

JAMES VI & I

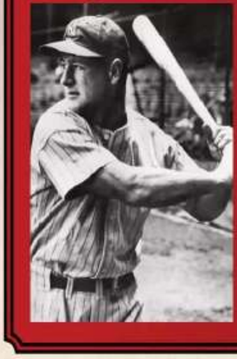
1566

The first king of all England, Ireland and Scotland, James VI & I had big shoes to fill after his predecessor, Elizabeth I, died in 1603. As the king of Scotland, he had kept the country's plethora of religious and political factions under control. When he took over as king of England, it was a remarkably peaceful transition. However, his attempts to maintain peace between the religions in England was less successful, and in 1605 evidence of a Catholic plot to assassinate him was uncovered.

LOU GEHRIG

1903

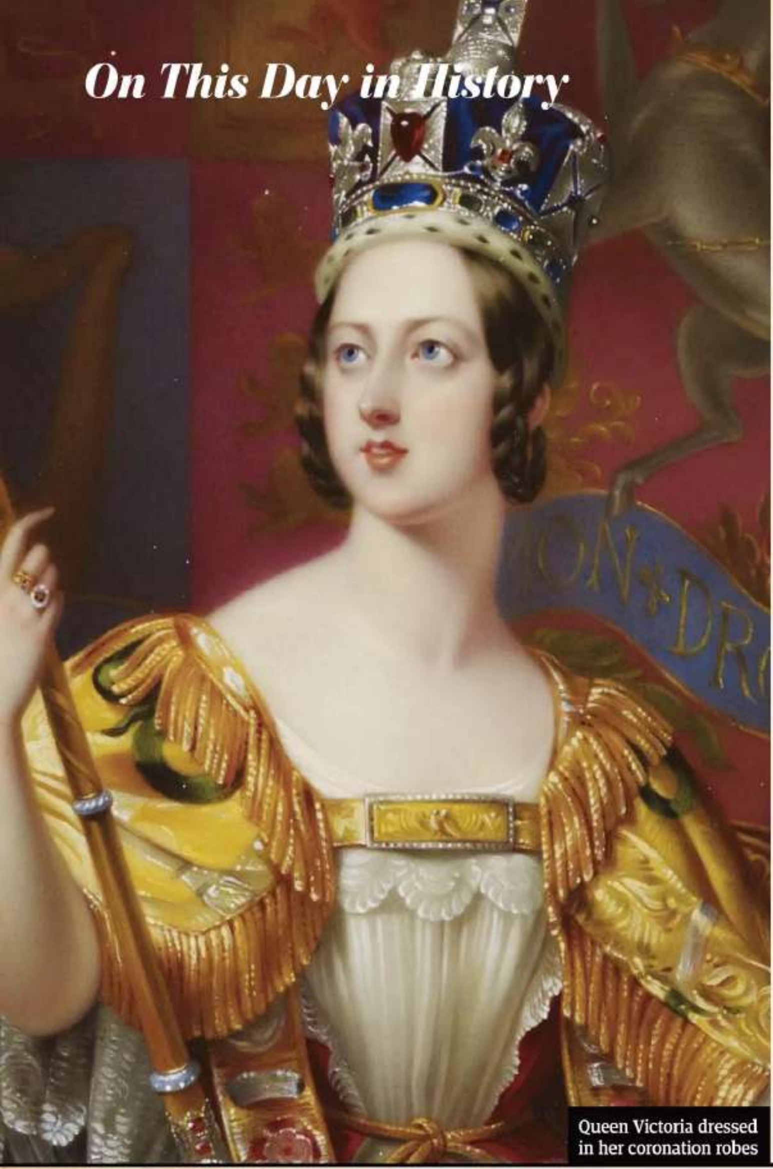
Born to German immigrants, Lou Gehrig became one of the greatest baseball players in American history. Although he was often overshadowed by his New York Yankees colleague Babe Ruth, Gehrig was valued for his batting skills, and he broke many records throughout his career. However, in 1939 he was diagnosed with a rare illness, which later became known as 'Lou Gehrig's disease'. He died in 1941.



DOUGLAS HAIG

1861

Though he was an experienced soldier in both Africa and India, Haig's actions during World War I were controversial. In an attempt to break the stalemate in France, he ordered the Somme offensive, which cost the British 60,000 casualties on its first day. However, later on in the war Haig was instrumental in helping the British win many key victories, so his legacy is a complex one, of both military prowess and terrible losses.



Queen Victoria dressed in her coronation robes

20 QUEEN VICTORIA'S CORONATION 1838

Nobody anticipated that the 18-year-old woman on the throne would become one of Britain's greatest monarchs, but against all expectations, that's exactly what she did. Though her ascension to the throne was difficult and hotly contested, Victoria succeeded in eliminating her threats to the throne, and she was crowned in 1838 .

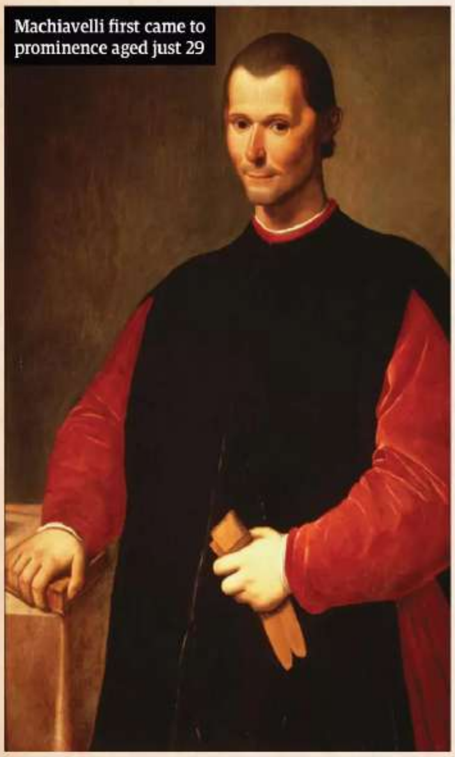
Victoria's reign was so era-defining that much of the 19th century is now simply known as the 'Victorian' period. At the beginning of her reign, the search for a husband gained momentum, and she married her cousin Albert of Saxe-Coburg Gotha in 1840. They had nine children, many of whom married into other royal families on the continent, giving Victoria the nickname 'Grandmother of Europe'.

As queen, Victoria transformed the role of the monarchy from a political one to a largely ceremonial one, just as it is in the 21st century. However, she often could not resist getting involved in politics, especially foreign policy - for instance, she used her influence to stop her government from interfering with the Prussia-Denmark war in 1864.

She also oversaw the expansion of industry at home, as well as the exponential growth of the British Empire. In 1877, she became the empress of India, usurping power and wealth from many South Asian royals. She tended to be fairly conservative in her domestic policy - on one occasion she disagreed with giving women the right to vote. However, she did recognise the importance of being visible to her subjects, and as a result she travelled across the country.

By the time of her death in 1901, she was Britain's longest-reigning monarch, having been in power more than 60 years. She died a popular queen, and was interred at Windsor Castle.

21 MACHIAVELLI DIES 1527



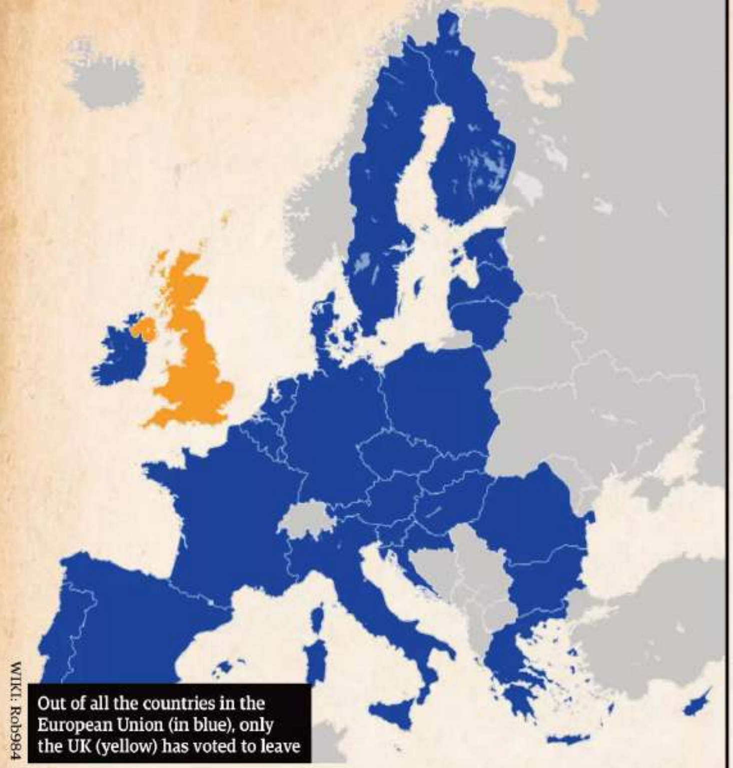
Machiavelli first came to prominence aged just 29

The notorious Italian political philosopher Niccolò Machiavelli led an interesting life. After working in the underbelly of Florentine government for a number of years, he understood a thing or two about politicians, and in his seminal work *Il Principe* revealed how people will always act in their own best interest - even if it means murdering the innocent. He was branded an atheist and a horrible cynic, and was sent into exile. However, his work is said to have inspired many modern public and political figures.

22 ARRIVAL OF THE EMPIRE WINDRUSH 1948

The arrival of Empire Windrush at the Tilbury Docks in Essex brought 492 Caribbean migrants to Britain. The anniversary of the cruise ship's arrival also chimes with the passing of the Nationality Act, which established common citizenship for all British subjects connected with the UK or its colonies. This act was intended to encourage mass migration from the countries of the British Empire and Commonwealth to fill shortages in the labour market - British Rail and the new National Health Service, in particular - after so many died during World War II (the Windrush was itself a captured German ship). The so-called Windrush Generation was initially met with fear mongering , but have since come to symbolise the origins of British multiculturalism.

Caribbean migrants disembarking Empire Windrush



WIKI: Rob984

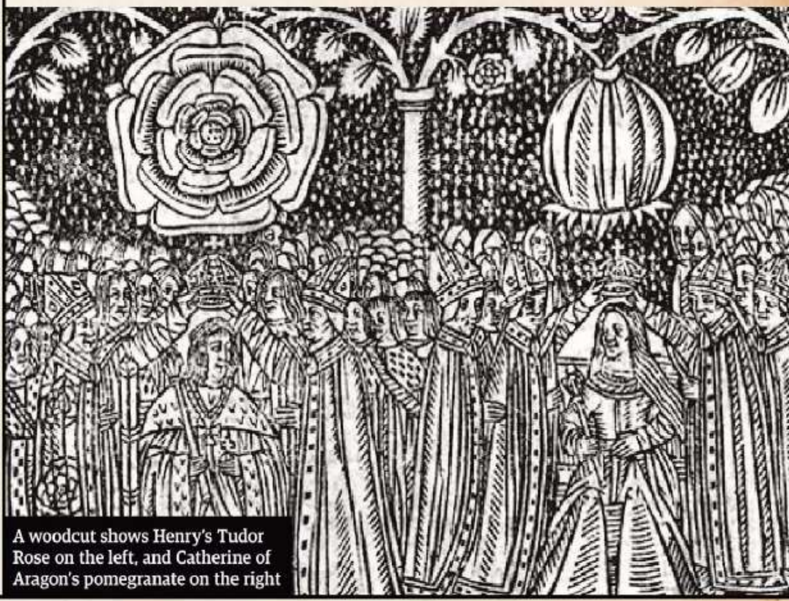
Out of all the countries in the European Union (in blue), only the UK (yellow) has voted to leave

23 THE BREXIT VOTE 2016

In a historic referendum, the United Kingdom took to the polls to vote on its future in the European Union. After enthusiastic campaigning from both sides, the result was almost entirely unexpected - the leavers took the majority with just 51.9%, or just over 1 million votes. After the result was announced, Prime Minister David Cameron resigned. Controversy has followed, with calls for a second referendum after it was perceived that prominent campaigners for leaving had possibly broken spending rules.

24 HENRY VIII'S CORONATION 1509

The future Henry VIII was a strapping young man, and the English populace had high hopes for him. When he was crowned in June 1509 at Westminster Abbey, it was a lavish affair. The archbishop of Canterbury, as tradition stipulated, placed the heavy gold crown on his head. Catherine of Aragon was crowned at the same time. The ceremony was followed by a vast banquet in Westminster Hall, which was described as "greater than any Caesar had known".



A woodcut shows Henry's Tudor Rose on the left, and Catherine of Aragon's pomegranate on the right

25 KOREAN WAR BEGINS 1950

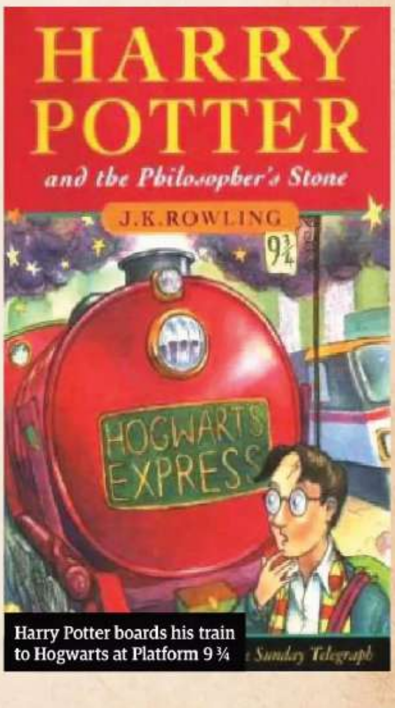
After the Cold War, the Korean peninsula had been split up into North Korea (occupied by the USSR) and South Korea (occupied by the US). When the North invaded the South in 1950, the US saw this as direct aggression against them, spurred on by their Soviet allies. The war that resulted was long, and involved many great powers, including China.

Most of the time, the conflict was a stalemate, with no one side ultimately winning out, and international players withdrawing their resources. Officially, the war has still not ended - although North and South Korea have announced their intention to sign a treaty by the end of this year.

Troops often had to survive the bitter cold of the Korean winter

26 FIRST HARRY POTTER BOOK PUBLISHED 1997

It's the story of a boy wizard, who is thrust into the spotlight to rid the world of an evil, who has a special hatred reserved for his nemesis, the young Harry Potter. JK Rowling's first novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, was an instant bestseller. The idea of a young wizard going off to a mysterious and otherworldly wizarding school came to Rowling as she was travelling on a train from London to Manchester, which had been delayed by over four hours. That idea has now become a billion-dollar franchise, and the seven books in the series are beloved by people all around the world.



Harry Potter boards his train to Hogwarts at Platform 9 ¾

27

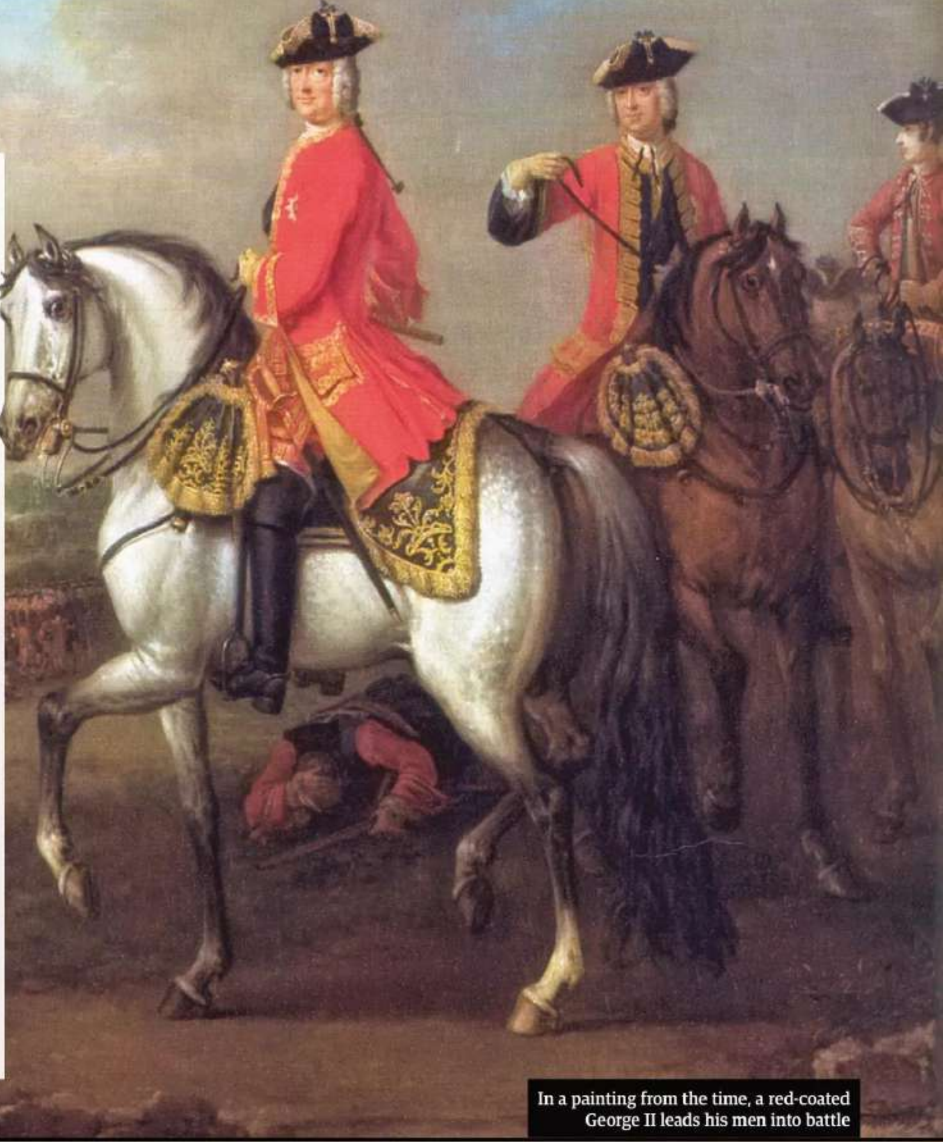
BATTLE OF DETTINGEN 1743

The 18th century was a time of turmoil and conflict on the Continent, and Britain found itself drawn into dynastic power struggles based on who it allied itself with. The War of Austrian Succession was no different - this time, the Austrian emperor tried to secure the line by placing his daughter Maria Theresa on the throne, but France and a number of German kingdoms went to war with him over this.

Britain sided with Austria and Hanover, because its monarch at the time (George II) was also ruler of the Hanoverian kingdom. It wished to secure Hanoverian independence from the other German kingdoms, and sent its army in to make sure this happened. On its way from Germany to Belgium, however, the army was blocked by the French, who decided to attack the British.

50,000 British troops were met by 70,000 French ones on the banks of the river Main, close to modern-day Frankfurt. After initial successes, the French army (particularly the cavalry) was fatigued, which is when the British - led personally by George II - decided to counter-attack. The French withdrew, and one bridge across the river collapsed while they were on it, killing many.

The battle is significant, because it marks the last time the British army was led personally into battle by their monarch. The king's victory was also celebrated by German-British composer Handel in his *Dettingen Te Deum* composition.



In a painting from the time, a red-coated George II leads his men into battle

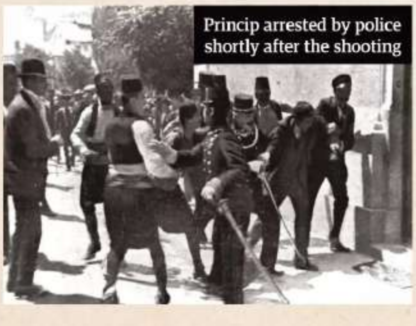
28

FERDINAND IS ASSASSINATED 1914

On 28 June 1914 the Archduke Franz Ferdinand - nephew and heir to Emperor Franz Josef of Austria-Hungary - along with his wife, Duchess Sophie, were shot and killed while inspecting the troops in Sarajevo. The man pulling the trigger was radicalised Bosnian-Serb student Gavrilo Princip, an assassin from the secret military society, the Black Hand, which was equipped and supported by conspirators within the Serbian army.

Though unpopular, the archduke's death provided all the pretext the Habsburg court needed to curtail the belligerent Serbia. Beyond the excuse that it supplied, Franz had been the leader of a think-tank within the Austro-Hungarian military that had advocated reorganising the empire along federal lines.

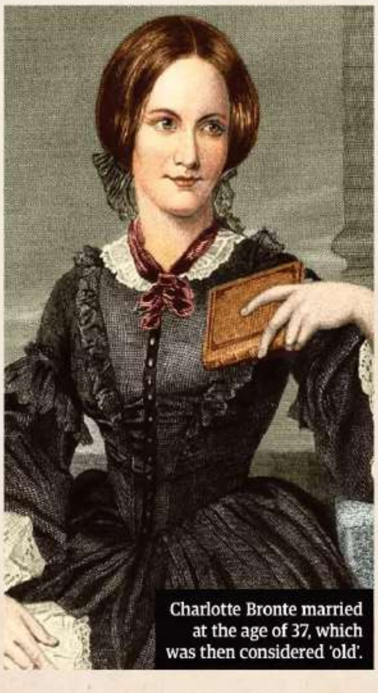
A more representative Austria-Hungary could have silenced demands for independence from the Slavic communities in the empire, many of which were still relatively loyal to Emperor Franz Josef himself, just critical of the state. This would loosen Serbia's influence in Croatia and Bosnia, and it also would have undermined Russia's self-proclaimed mission to 'protect' the Slavic and Orthodox Christian people. But it was never to be as World War I broke out that September.



Princip arrested by police shortly after the shooting

29

CHARLOTTE BRONTË MARRIES 1854



Charlotte Bronte married at the age of 37, which was then considered 'old'.

Charlotte Brontë seemed destined to be a spinster as she had rejected a previous marriage proposal, and she became a successful novelist in her own right - two things that were highly unconventional in Victorian society. However, after both of her sisters had died and she was left to care for her ailing father, Charlotte received a proposal from Irish curate Arthur Bell Nicholls. Her father initially refused his permission, so the couple met in secret, but he ultimately relented. Their marriage was happy, but tragically short - Charlotte died just a few months afterwards due to complications of pregnancy.

30

NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES 1934

Hitler and Röhm conduct an inspection of the SA in 1933

After taking power in 1933, Hitler became paranoid that the Nazi Party's paramilitary SA (Brownshirts) were becoming too big for their boots, and worried that they could threaten his absolutism. They had been instrumental in his rise to power, and often took to street violence to intimidate voters. In particular, Hitler feared his close friend Ernst Röhm, the leader of the SA, who wanted to have his troops integrated with the regular Wehrmacht despite opposition from conservative generals. If Röhm succeeded, it could cost Hitler his power.

So, to consolidate his position, he ordered a bloody purge of SA members, including Röhm himself. He convinced many party members that Röhm was plotting a coup, and used the SS to carry out the massacre. Hitler took down his friend personally, arresting him at a hotel near Munich and having him executed without a trial the next day.

85 named people died during the purge, which lasted until 2 July, though the death toll is reckoned to be more like 150. Other political opponents to the Nazi Party were targeted as well, such as Franz von Papen, although the former chancellor managed to escape with his life.

The Night of the Long Knives achieved Hitler's aim, which was to remove key obstacles to his rule. The last bastion of German democracy, its president Paul von Hindenburg, died just one month later. Hitler now reigned supreme, paving the way for war in Europe and the horrors of the Holocaust.

HITLER'S HIT LIST

THE PEOPLE IN HITLER'S CROSSHAIRS WERE TARGETED FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, BUT THEY ALL HAD ONE THING IN COMMON: A GRISLY END

ERNST RÖHM

Hitler considered Röhm one of his very few friends, and Röhm was even allowed to call the Führer by his first name. Röhm helped Hitler win over the support of the army in Bavaria, and took the lead of the SA. Hitler gave him a cabinet position, in an attempt to subdue the power of the SA, but he feared Röhm's influence. Röhm was also, privately, a homosexual. Hitler was aware of this, but turned a blind eye – contradicting his later actions towards the LGBT community. Many members of the Nazi Party criticised him for this, but Röhm carried on regardless. Hitler was, indeed, reluctant to get rid of his friend, despite the fact he saw him as a political rival. But in the end, there was nothing Hitler would stop at to gain absolute control, and Röhm was killed as he pledged his allegiance to the Führer.

KURT VON SCHLEICHER

Kurt von Schleicher was the last chancellor of the Weimar Republic, a German era that Hitler considered to be far too decadent and liberal. Schleicher had tried to undermine Hitler on many occasions, not least when he had suggested that President Hindenburg dissolve the Reichstag and rule as a dictator to stop the Nazi threat. On one occasion, Schleicher offered to participate in a government with Hitler, so long as he could have full control of the Reichswehr, Germany's military, while Hitler ruled as chancellor. It was an attempt to keep the peace but Hitler refused, and nor did he forgive Schleicher for his previous opposition. Schleicher was dismissed by Hindenburg in 1933 with Hitler taking his place and Hitler regarded him as one of his top enemies – and that is why he wanted him dead.

GREGOR STRASSER

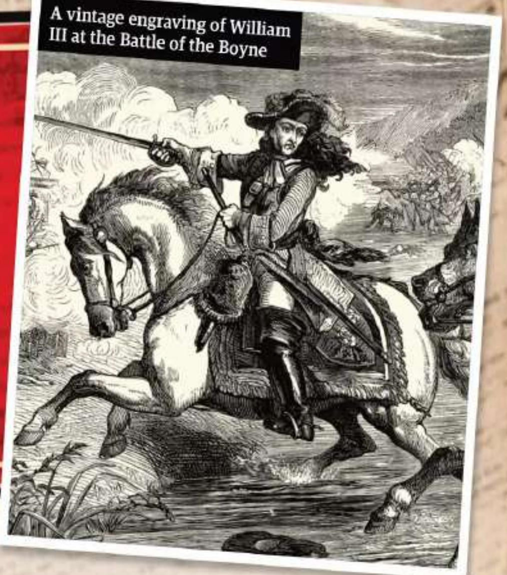
Second only to Hitler himself in terms of personal power and popularity, Strasser had been an influential figure in early Nazi Germany. He was an astute political campaigner, and understood how to get a form of 'socialism' to appeal to millions of middle-class Germans. Hitler's rise to power was largely aided by Strasser, but after he had taken control of the government, divisions between them started to show. Strasser had always thought of himself as a true National Socialist, with a left-wing ideology that meant he hated Hitler courting big businesses. He was also allegedly opposed to Hitler's anti-Semitism. He resigned from the party in 1932, and though Hitler managed to stave off a decline in membership as a result of the resignation, he never managed to forgive Strasser's disloyalty.

ERICH KLAUSENER

A devout Catholic academic and ally of former chancellor Franz von Papen, Klausener had been a member of many activist organisations. Prior to 1933, for instance, he had strongly supported the police in their fight against the Nazi Party's illegal tactics and street violence. However, it backfired for Klausener when the Nazis eventually took power and he was deposed from his position in the Department of Transport.

But Klausener didn't stop there. In June 1934, He made speeches to Catholic (and non-Catholic) crowds in which he criticised the Nazis' use of violence and intimidation. The Nazi Party took note of his actions, and less than a week after what would be his last speech on 24 June 1933 in front of an audience of 60,000 people, he was shot in his office, another casualty of the Night of the Long Knives.

JULY



A vintage engraving of William III at the Battle of the Boyne

01

BATTLE OF THE BOYNE 1690

The Battle of the Boyne has gone down in folklore as one of the most important ever hosted on the British Isles. Pitching William of Orange against the former James II of England, it pitted sovereign against sovereign - the last time two British monarchs ever faced each other in battle. Its significance varies depending on which side you're on: for the so-called Jacobites (the name given to James' supporters), the attraction was the idea of pursuing much-wanted religious freedom. For their opponents, it was about staving off defeat against an outside threat in the form of James and Catholicism and preventing a return to the bloodshed of events like the 1641 Irish Rebellion.

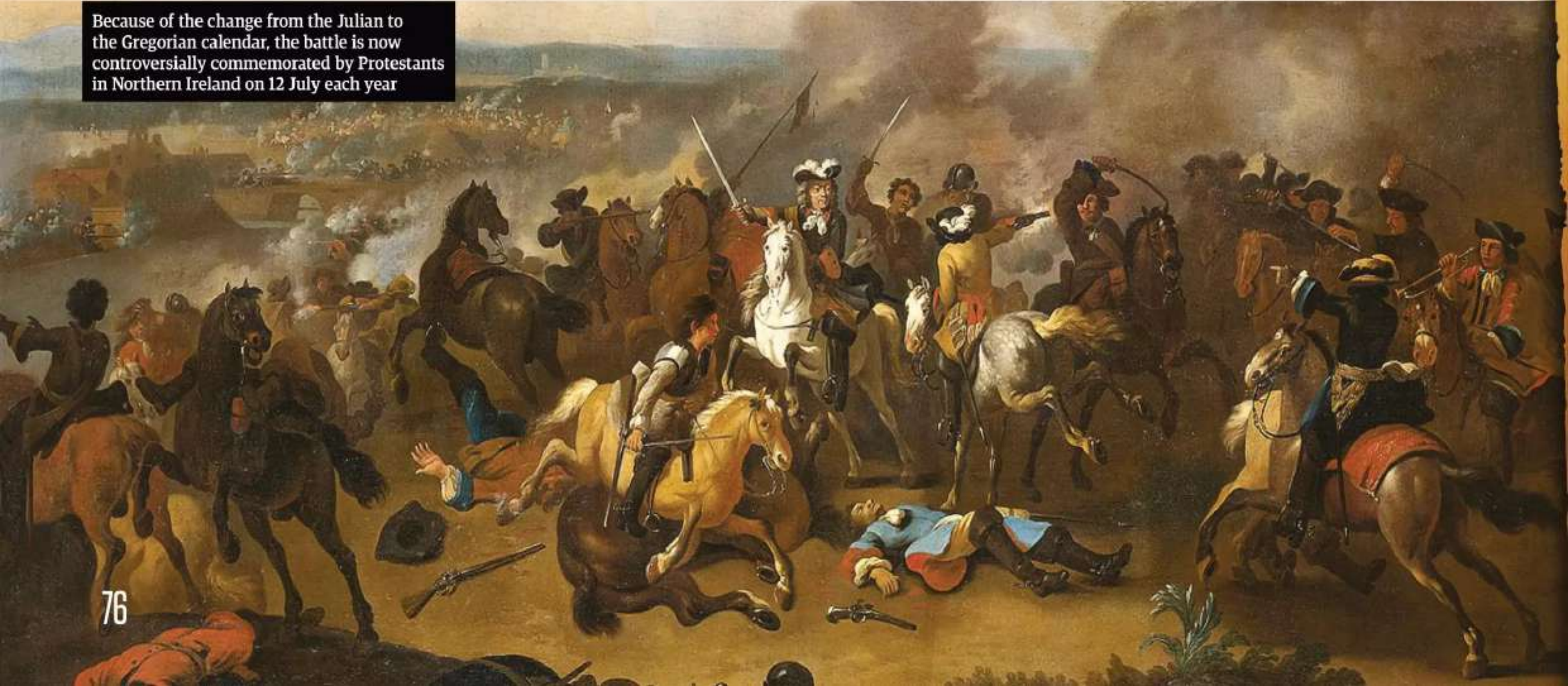
Having effectively abandoned the throne during the events of the Glorious Revolution of 1688, James had fled to France, with Dutch Protestant William of Orange being invited to become king in his place. However, James still harboured ambitions of regaining the throne, although being a staunch Catholic, he knew any attempts to invade the predominantly Protestant England would be problematic. Instead, he chose Ireland as the route through which he would regain power; being predominantly Catholic, it was a place where he could expect to gain support. The Irish Catholics duly backed James in numbers; having landed at Ulster on 14 June 1690 with around 6,000 French soldiers provided by James' cousin Louis XIV, by the time the battle commenced his army had been bolstered to around 23,500.

The Jacobites supported him due to his apparent desire for religious freedom for all denominations, as characterised by his 1687 Declaration of Indulgence. Having suffered persecution during Oliver Cromwell's famous conquest of 1649 to 1653, they saw James as a means of gaining autonomy.

By contrast, William (who was married to James' daughter Anne), saw James as a threat to Protestant rule. Coupled with his alliance with Louis - whose domination of Europe William had sought to end - he knew James needed to be dealt with decisively. To this end, he raised a huge army, comprising a wide array of nationalities. They included French Huguenots (forced to abandon France due to the repeal of the Edict of Nantes, which granted them religious freedom), Ulster-based Irish Protestants and troops from England, Scotland, Denmark and the Netherlands. William's army totalled around 36,000. Upon landing at the port of Carrickfergus near Belfast, William's forces marched toward Dublin. In response, James ordered his forces to meet them at the River Boyne, 50 kilometres away from the city - the city's last natural obstacle. Having reached there on 29 June, the battle commenced two days later on 1 July after William led his army across the Boyne, upon which fighting ensued. After four hours of battle, characterised by counter-attack after counter-attack, the Jacobites retreated, although major losses were prevented by the cavalry covering their withdrawal.

Although the losses for both sides were low for a battle of such size and importance, there was to be no rematch. James returned to exile in France where he would live for the rest of his life, leaving William free to march on Dublin, where the Treaty of Limerick - marking the re-conquest of Ireland - was signed in 1691.

William had secured the throne for himself and his wife Mary in the last time two British monarchs have faced each other in battle, and Britain was once again united.



Because of the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar, the battle is now controversially commemorated by Protestants in Northern Ireland on 12 July each year

02

MLK SIGNS THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT 1964

The culmination of years of struggle, the Civil Rights Act – signed by President Lyndon B Johnson and Martin Luther King Jr – marked a turning point in the United States' strict segregation laws that saw people of colour treated like second-class citizens. The Act outlawed discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex or national origin, and changed the face of the United States forever.

Johnson and King sign the Civil Rights Act

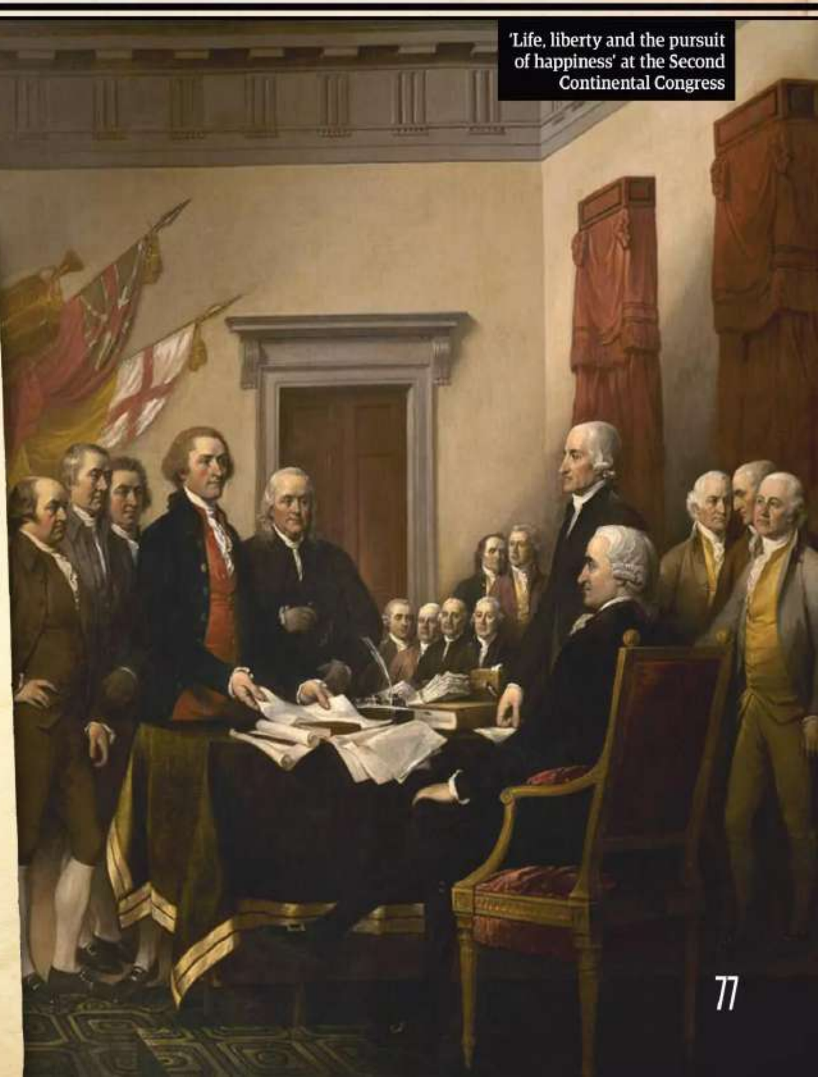
03

WORLD'S GREATEST MISER DIES 1916

Green owned a single black dress that earned her the nickname the Witch of Wall Street

Few people mourned when Hetty Green, the world's richest woman, breathed her last. Despite owning a fortune of up to $200 million (equivalent to $4.5 billion now), heiress and investor Hetty was known as "the world's greatest miser". She rarely used hot water, ate cheap pies and saved soap by only washing the hems of her clothes.

Upon her death, the first woman to invest on Wall Street had about $100 million in liquid assets, with more in investments and land. Thankfully, her two children enjoyed the money more than she had done.



'Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness' at the Second Continental Congress

04

A SUPERPOWER IS BORN 1776

A 2011 survey showed 61 per cent of Americans favoured Queen Elizabeth II. Had the poll been taken 237 years ago the results would have been different. In early 1776, a political pamphlet titled *Common Sense* was circulating the colonies. Its author, Thomas Paine, didn't pull any punches when it came to his views of King George III: "How impious is the title of sacred Majesty applied to a worm, who in the midst of his splendour is crumbling to dust."

A few months on, Thomas Jefferson penned a more formal statement, calling for a split from Britain. Adopted by a majority in Congress on 4 July, and agreed by all 13 colonies, it sparked a New York riot, during which the statue of George III was toppled. The final engrossed declaration wasn't signed until 2 August, but America continues to celebrate the day it first voted for 'Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness' at the Second Continental Congress.

There are thought to be 26 surviving copies of the original Declaration in existence today, 21 owned by various US institutions. One was even found in the British National Archives in 2009.

05

DOLLY THE SHEEP BORN 1996

The birth of a sheep is not usually a major event, but this particular animal was the focus of a major scientific experiment. Dolly had three different mothers: one provided an egg, one provided DNA and a third was the surrogate who carried the embryo to term.

Essentially, Dolly was the first clone created from a cell taken from an adult mammal, a breakthrough hailed by scientists and the media alike. Since then, scientists have successfully cloned a number of other animal species.

Dolly was named after country singer Dolly Parton

06

ANNE FRANK GOES INTO HIDING 1942

Early one summer's morning, a 13-year-old Jewish girl who wanted to become a journalist slipped behind a bookcase into a hiding place. The secret three-story annexe she entered with her parents and her older sister was located in her father's place of work and offered a refuge from the Nazi persecution of Jews taking place in occupied Amsterdam. Over the course of the year, the Frank family was joined by four others, living a life of confinement and isolation for more than two years until the Gestapo received a tip-off and raided the building.

The eight who had been concealed within were shipped off to concentration camps and by the time the war ended a year later, only Otto Frank was still alive. When he returned home, he was given a book by one of his Dutch colleagues who had known about the annexe and tidied up after the Gestapo left. It was the diary that had been kept by his youngest daughter, Anne, in which she had detailed her secret life in hiding. When it was first published in 1947, *The Diary of Anne Frank* became a worldwide phenomenon.

The sad tale of their confinement ensured that Anne's ambition to become a writer finally came true, but only after her tragic death.

Anne probably died with her sister in Bergen-Belsen in February or March 1945, just weeks before the camp was liberated

07

7/7 TERROR ATTACKS 2005

Londoners were still celebrating the previous day's announcement that the city would host the 2012 Olympics when, during the morning rush hour, suicide bombers targeted commuters making their way to work. Three bombs exploded on the London Underground; a fourth was detonated an hour later on a double-decker bus. 52 people were killed and more than 700 were injured. The four men responsible were inspired by radical Islamic groups like al-Qaeda and aimed to cause as much death and destruction as they could. Terror had come to the streets of London.

Hundreds were injuried in the attacks

08

KIM IL-SUNG DIES 1994

When the news emerged from North Korea that Supreme Leader Kim Il-Sung had died from a heart attack, the world wondered what would happen next in the secretive nation. Kim's planned economy saw North Korea experience a boom in the 1960s, but it began to unravel in the 1980s as the country stagnated and was struck by famine. However, Kim's death did not see the country change track and North Korea continued to be a thorn in the side of the capitalist world under his son and, since 2011, grandson Kim Jong-un.

A ten-day mourning period was declared by Kim Il-sung's son and successor Kim Jong-il

09

ROYAL ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED 1947

The couple married in November 1947, just three months after the engagement was announced

When 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth met Prince Philip of Greece and Denmark in 1939, she immediately fell in love, despite him being five years her senior. They kept in touch and, eight years later, their engagement was announced. Before marrying the heir to the British throne, Philip was required to renounce his continental titles and convert from Greek Orthodoxy to the Church of England, but he did so happily and they married within four months, becoming the duke and duchess of Edinburgh.

10

BORIS YELTSIN ASSUMES OFFICE 1991

Yeltsin served as president from 1991 to 1999

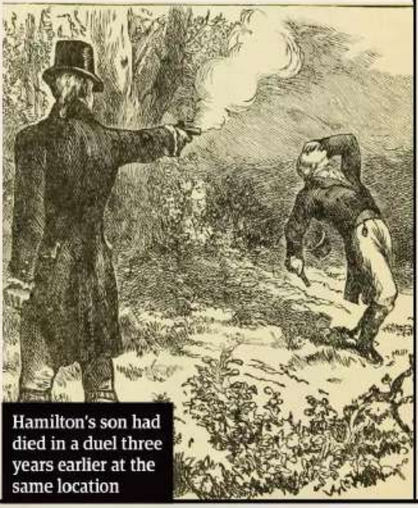
With the USSR in freefall after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the individual republics that made up the wider socialist union began to flex their muscles, and nowhere was this more apparent than Russia. Boris Yeltsin, the reformist former mayor of Moscow, resigned from the Communist Party and was elected the first president of a self-declared autonomous Russia. Within months Mikhail Gorbachev declared the dissolution of the Soviet Union and Russia's new president found himself one of the most powerful men in the world.

11

HAMILTON–BURR DUEL 1804

Under the light of an early morning dawn, two men separately travelled to the Heights of Weehawken in New Jersey. They collected pistols from their companions, stood in position and raised their weapons. Seconds later one of the men collapsed, fatally wounded by a bullet. The man who fired the fatal shot was Aaron Burr, vice president of the United States. His victim was Alexander Hamilton, former secretary of the treasury.

The duel was the result of a long-standing political rivalry between the two men, who had a particularly fractious relationship after Burr blamed Hamilton for his missing out on the presidency in the 1800 election. Eventually they agreed to settle their differences on the duelling ground. Hamilton probably fired first but intended to deliberately miss - whether Burr wanted to kill is less clear.



Hamilton's son had died in a duel three years earlier at the same location

12

GERTRUDE BELL DIES 1926

The death of Gertrude Bell due to an overdose of sleeping pills - whether a deliberate suicide or not is unknown - robbed the world of the female Lawrence of Arabia. Like her better-known contemporary, Bell was a writer, explorer, archaeologist and political administrator who was drawn to the Middle East through a sense of adventure.

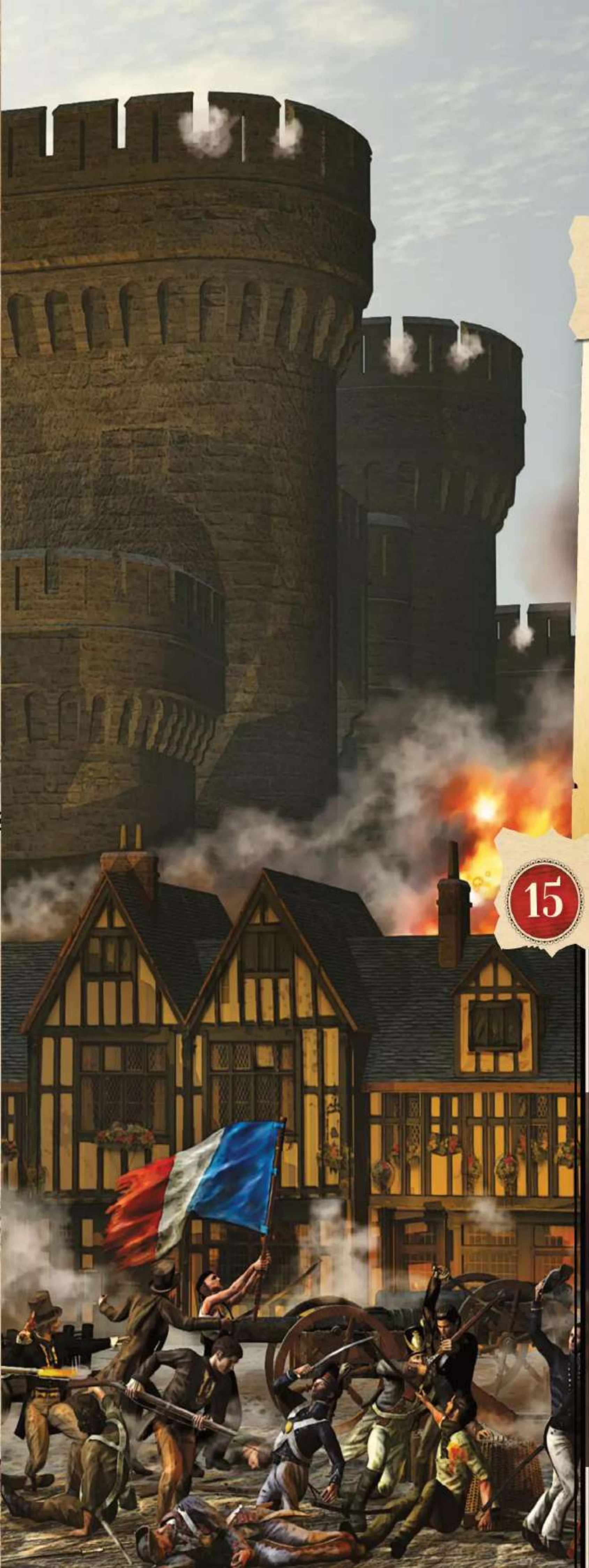
Her writings opened up the wonders of the Middle East to readers, while her local knowledge saw her used as liaison between Arab tribes and the British Army in the First World War and beyond. She was involved in the post-war creation of Iraq, as well as helping found the Baghdad Archaeological Museum and Baghdad Peace Library (now National Museum of Iraq and National Library of Iraq). Bell's profound influence continues to have an impact on the modern-day Middle East.

13

DEATH OF FRIDA KAHLO 1954

Frida Kahlo had suffered health problems throughout her life, contracting polio as a child, undergoing spinal surgery after a road traffic accident at the age of 18 and having a gangrenous foot amputated a year before her death. When she finally succumbed to illness at the age of 47 she was best known as the two-time wife of muralist Diego Rivera, despite being an artist in her own right. It was not until more than two decades had passed that Kahlo's paintings were reassessed. What followed was 'Fridamania' as Kahlo's stylised self-portraits became phenomenally popular. In 1990 she became the first Latin American artist to have a work sell for more than $1 million; in 2016 *Two Lovers in a Forest* sold for $8 million. Kahlo may have lived a painful and tragic life, but she has been celebrated in death.

Kahlo was lucky to survive the 1925 road traffic accident that left her with three displaced vertebrae and fractured ribs, collarbone, pelvis and legs



14 STORMING OF THE BASTILLE 1789

It was a warm summer's day in the city, but the people of Paris were not happy. Inequality reigned supreme, and while the royal family were enjoying eight-course meals, the poor struggled to afford a loaf of bread. To make matters worse, King Louis XVI had recently introduced a new taxation system that threatened to leave them penniless.

A new National Assembly had been formed to represent the commoners in the debate over tax, but on 12 July it received news that the king had dismissed its beloved finance minister, Jacques Necker, for being too sympathetic to their cause. For the Parisians, this sent a clear message: that he would soon dismantle the assembly and destroy their chances of creating a more equal society.

Waves of angry citizens spilled out onto the streets. The Royal Army struggled to control the raging crowds, and many of the city's armouries were plundered. From here on, they decided, the battle for equality would have to be fought with weapons. But the rioters lacked an important resource: gunpowder.

The city's supply was kept in the Bastille, a fortress that for hundreds of years had been used as a place of torture, imprisonment and execution without trial. It was a symbol of everything that was wrong with the monarchy, and that made it the perfect target for a siege.

15 EMMELINE PANKHURST BORN 1858

Emmeline Goulden was born in into a family of political activists in Manchester's Moss Side, so it was no surprise that she grew up interested in political affairs, joining the Women's Franchise League and Independent Labour Party and working as a Poor Law Guardian. However, it was through her creation of the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) that her name - now changed after marriage to barrister Richard Pankhurst - became both famous and infamous. The suffragettes, as members of the WSPU were known, were determined to change the law to allow women to vote in general elections.

Decades of peaceful campaigning had failed, so Pankhurst encouraged her suffragettes to engage in more violent tactics including harassment, arson and assault. Women were finally granted the vote for the first time in 1918. Ten years later, Pankurst died just weeks before the government extended the vote to women on the same basis as men.

16

ROMANOVS EXECUTED 1918

Nicholas II had never been a natural sovereign, nor had his father prepared him to rule, believing that, as he was in his 40s, he had a great many years yet. He was wrong: Nicholas, young, naïve and ill-prepared, became tsar aged just 26. This was the beginning of a reign that was clouded by bad judgements, mistakes and a blindness to the plight and opinions of his subjects all over Russia. After the revolution of 1905, Nicholas had promised to listen to his people's demands for basic civil liberties, but because of his strong belief in the divine right of tsars, these promises were soon revoked.

After leading his country into disastrous and costly wars, conditions in Russia worsened. Food was scarce, soldiers died in their tens of thousands and defeat after defeat destroyed any confidence the people had in their leader. Prices soared and riots tore through the country, leaving the nation completely disillusioned by a regime that didn't seem to care about their welfare at all. Revolution was inevitable. Nicholas ordered that the demonstrators be dealt with, and some 200 citizens were shot dead in the street. Eventually even the army garrison at Petrograd, the oldest and most loyal regiment, joined the fight and Nicholas had no choice but to abdicate his throne, aged 48.

Nicholas and his family were quickly exiled and imprisoned, forced to live on soldiers' rations, as they remained unaware of their ultimate fate. It was believed the tsar could eventually be put on trial, but the events of 17 July 1918 changed everything. Though there are many conflicting accounts, it is believed the family were awoken in the early hours and were led down to a basement room under the guise of safety measures.

However, as they assembled in the room, a firing squad of seven communist soldiers filed in. With time only to splutter, "What? What?" Nicholas was shot dead. Only the young children survived the first hail of bullets, their jewel-laden dresses shielding them, but they were soon run through with bayonets and shot in the head at close range. The elimination was not only of the family, but also of the line of tsars in Russia. The people believed they were better off ruling themselves rather than relying on the aristocracy. However, they ultimately discovered that normal men could be just as terrible as tsars.

None of the immediate royal family survived the Russian Revolution

17

SPANISH CIVIL WAR STARTS 1936

At 5am, the army garrisoned in the Spanish protectorate in Morocco rose up in revolt. It signalled the beginning of a coup d'état by Spanish generals who aimed to overthrow the left-leaning Republican government in favour of a Nationalist, military dictatorship. Within hours, Spanish Morocco was under rebel control and risings began on the Spanish mainland. However, Nationalist hopes for a quick transfer of power were dashed as the Republican government fought back. The hapless prime minister resigned and was replaced by the more decisive José Giral, who quickly ordered arms to be distributed among civilians to prevent the coup succeeding in most large cities. Nazi Germany stepped in to support the Nationalists, providing air transport to enable the Moroccan forces under the command of General Francisco Franco to land on the mainland.

A week after the coup, the rebels controlled a strip of land across the north of Spain and the isolated enclave of Seville in the south - approximately one-third of the country - while the Republicans maintained a hold over the rest of Spain, including the capital Madrid. The stage was set for a brutal civil war that would last two years and eight months, eventually ending in a Nationalist victory and 40 years of military dictatorship under Generalisimo Franco.

18

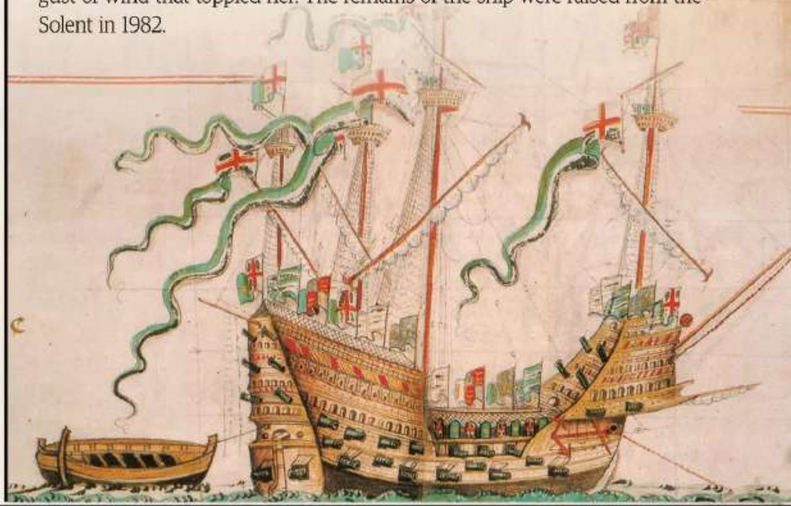
GREAT FIRE OF ROME BEGINS 64 CE

The fire that broke out overnight in one of Rome's many shops quickly spread through the narrow streets and apartment blocks of the world's largest city. It took six days of pulling down buildings as a fire break until the blaze was brought under control - by the time the flames were quenched, only four of the city's 14 districts were unscathed. Contemporary (and probably incorrect) accounts suggest that Emperor Nero played his lyre while his citizens burned or even started the fire himself, but he blamed a new sect called the Christians and began the Roman Empire's first persecution of them.

19

THE MARY ROSE SINKS 1545

As the Battle of the Solent began, the Mary Rose, Henry VIII's recently rebuilt flagship, suddenly and unexpectedly sinks. Of the 400 crew aboard, fewer than 35 people survived. Only one contemporary account of the ship's sinking exists, which claims that she fired all guns on one side while attempting to turn and was caught in a gust of wind that toppled her. The remains of the ship were raised from the Solent in 1982.



The USA fulfilled John F Kennedy's dream of going to the Moon before 1970

20

MAN WALKS ON THE MOON 1969

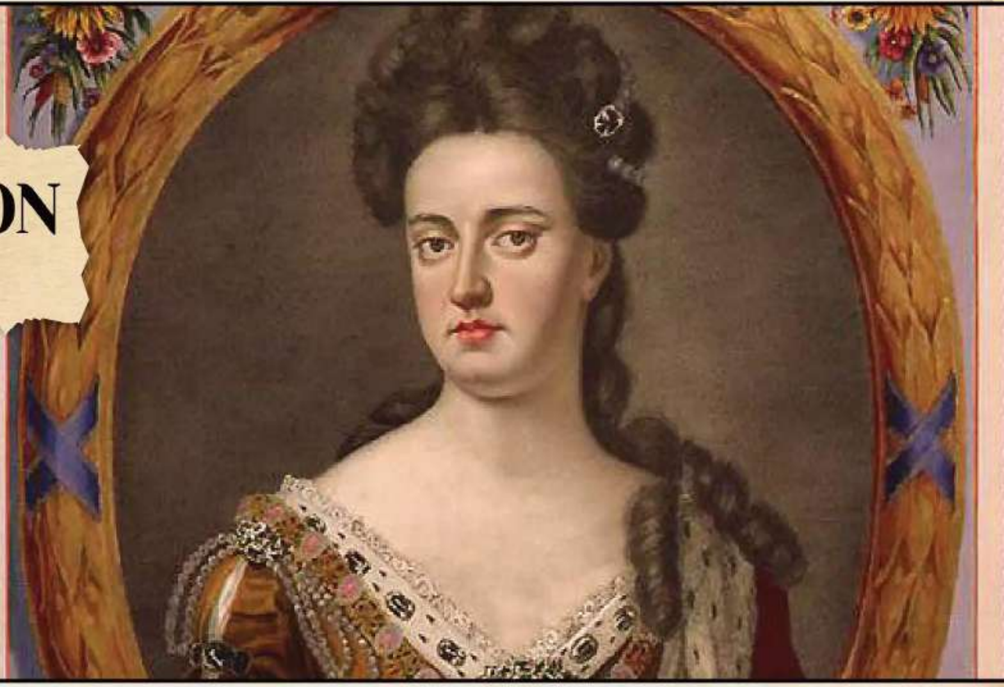
NASA astronaut 'Buzz' Aldrin walked on the lunar surface after the successful landing of the Eagle. Mission commander Neil Armstrong uttered the immortal words "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" upon landing. A third member of the crew, Michael Collins, stayed alone in orbit aboard the command module, commenting "Not since Adam has any human known such solitude."

21

ELECTION OF SIRIMAVO BANDARANAIKE 1960

When the votes of the previous day's parliamentary election were finally counted, they revealed that Ceylon's voters had made history. Despite the Sri Lankan Freedom Party (SLFP) obtaining fewer votes than their main rival, the United National Party, the SLFP won more seats in the House of Representatives. The result was Sirimavo Bandaranaike becoming Ceylon's prime minister and the world's first female head of government.

22



TREATY OF UNION IS AGREED 1706

For more than a century, the kingdoms of England and Scotland shared a monarch but had separate parliaments. In order to tidy a rather messy situation, 31 commissioners from each country met at the Cockpit-in-Court in London - although each delegation sat in a separate room and communicated only in writing. After three months of deliberations, they agreed a treaty that would unite both crowns into a single nation and, on 1 May 1707, the kingdom of Great Britain was born.

23

1929

MUSSOLINI CENSORS ITALIAN

The National Fascist Party of Italy banned the use of dialects and non-Italian words. In an effort to keep the Italian language 'pure', all foreign words were replaced or Italianised.

1952

EGYPTIAN REVOLUTION BEGINS

A group of army officers led by Muhammad Naguib and Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrew King Faruq and seized control of the government. The revolution's success inspired waves of similar uprisings in other Arab and African countries.

1986

A ROYAL WEDDING

The Queen's son, Prince Andrew, married Sarah Ferguson at Westminster Abbey. Thousands of spectators lined the streets of London, and about half a billion people around the world watched the television broadcast.

1995

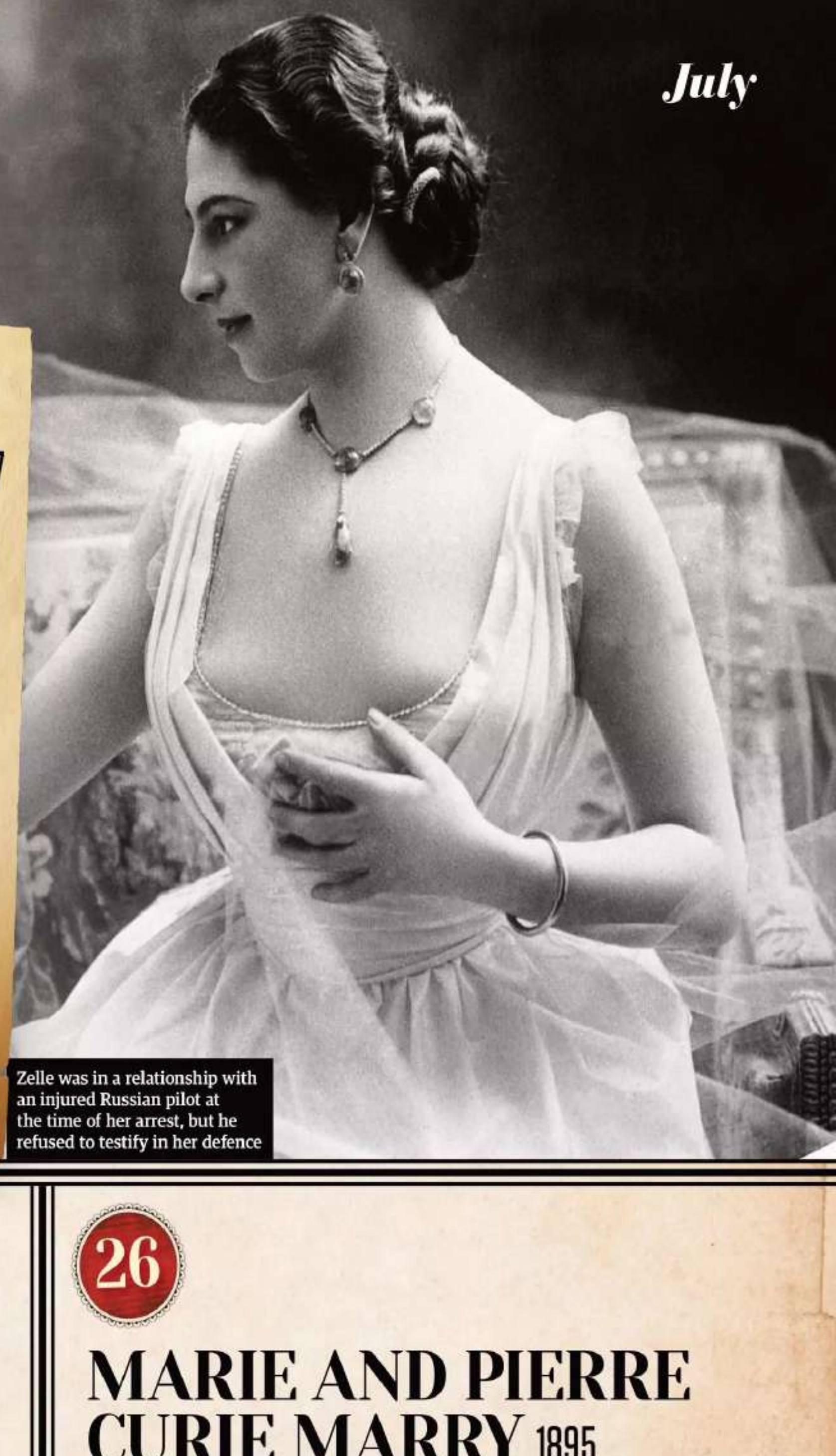
HALE-BOPP DISCOVERED

The 'Great Comet of 1997' Hale-Bopp was discovered by American astronomers Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp. Two years later, it passed by Earth and remained visible in the night sky for 18 months.

24 MATA HARI'S TRIAL BEGINS 1917

Margaretha Zelle was a Dutch-born exotic dancer who took the stage name Mata Hari, claiming to be a princess from the Dutch East Indies. However, her life took a strange turn on the outbreak of World War I. Since the Netherlands was a neutral power, Zelle was relatively free to travel war-torn Europe. French military intelligence officers recruited her to obtain secret information by seducing Crown Prince Wilhelm, the son of the German kaiser. After briefly being held by British police who feared she was spying on them, Zelle travelled to Spain where she met with the German military attaché. Unconvinced that she would remain loyal, French military intelligence arrested her in a Paris hotel.

During her trial, which was reported widely in the French press, Zelle continually proclaimed her innocence. However, her defence was hampered as her lawyer was unable to question witnesses and Zelle admitted taking money from a German diplomat in return for leaking French secrets - but she said it was only to win their trust so she could carry out her primary mission to seduce the crown prince. At the trial's conclusion, Zelle was found guilty and executed by firing squad in October 1917, but the question of whether she was a double-agent or used as a scapegoat for French military failures continues.



Zelle was in a relationship with an injured Russian pilot at the time of her arrest, but he refused to testify in her defence

25 FIRST IVF BIRTH IN UK 1978

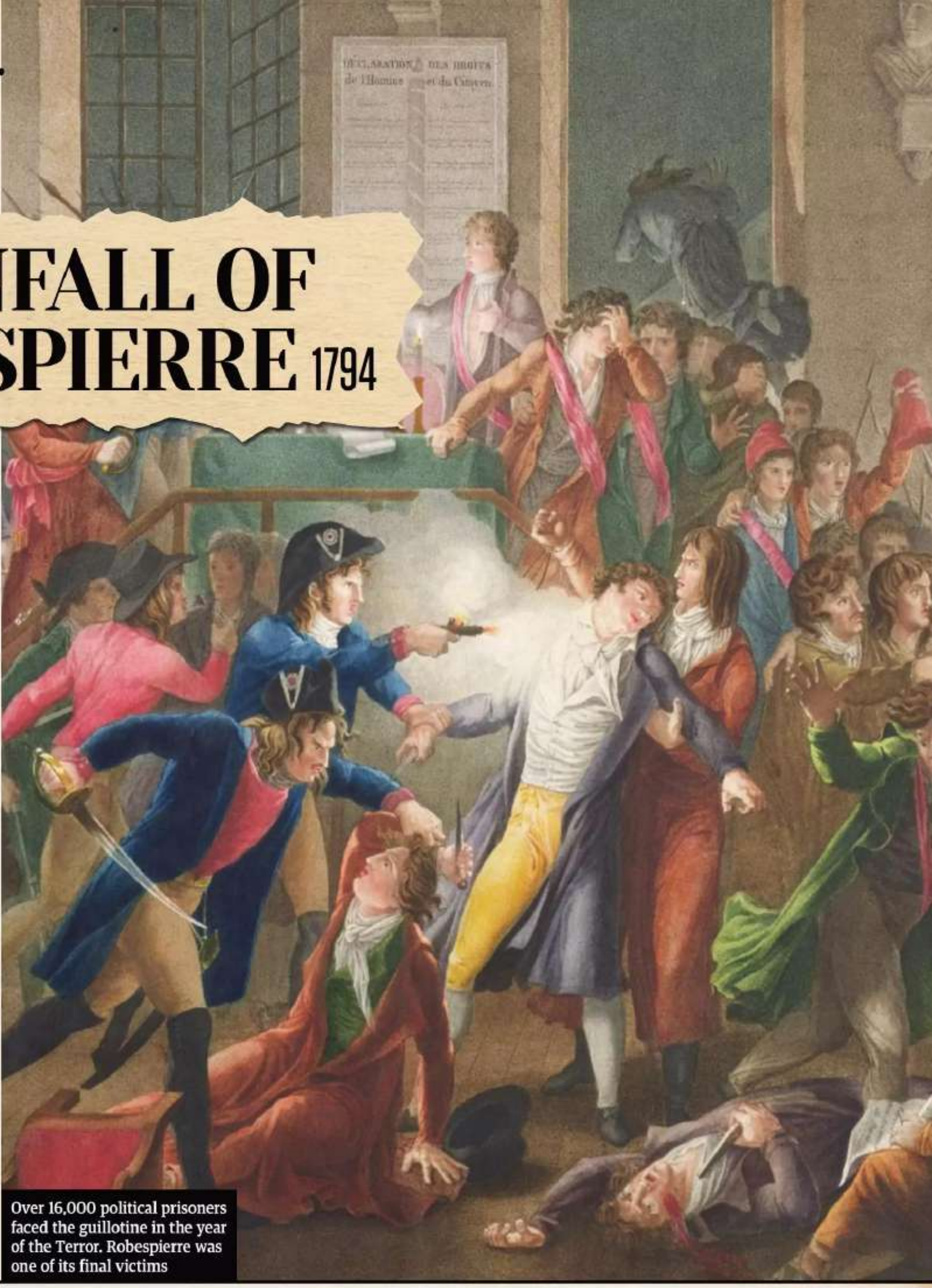
Louise Joy Brown's birth brought great joy to her parents, who had been trying for a baby for nine years. The breakthrough that finally led to a successful pregnancy was a new medical procedure, in vitro fertilisation (IVF), a form of assisted conception developed by Patrick Steptoe, Robert Edwards and Jean Purdy. Brown was the first IVF baby - although the doctors had omitted telling her prospective parents that the technique had yet to result in a successful birth.

26 MARIE AND PIERRE CURIE MARRY 1895

Maria Skłodowska first met her future husband in 1891 when he agreed to share his laboratory space at the Parisian School of Physics and Chemistry. Their mutual love for science grew into a love for each other, although Marie initially rejected Pierre's proposal because she hoped to move back to her native Poland. Eventually she agreed, and the rest is scientific history: they jointly won the Nobel Prize in Physics, while Marie won a second Nobel Prize, in Chemistry six years after Pierre's untimely death.

27 DOWNFALL OF ROBESPIERRE 1794

Maximilien Robespierre was a passionate advocate of the French Revolution who coined the famous motto "Liberté, égalité, fraternité". An influential crusader for democratic reform, universal male suffrage and the abolition of slavery, Robespierre was also an opponent of the death penalty - that is, until he reluctantly agreed that King Louis XVI should be executed. After that, everything changed. Robespierre was elected to the powerful Committee of Public Safety, which used systemic terror to crush any opponents. Under Robespierre's direction, those who were thought to disagree with the course of the Revolution were arrested and executed. Even Danton, the creator of the Committee of Public Safety, was one of its victims. Members of the National Convention were increasingly alarmed by the Terror - especially since it appeared Robespierre may target them next - and ordered his arrest. Order broke down with troops fighting for both Robespierre and the Convention. Trapped overnight in the Hôtel de Ville, Robespierre was shot in the jaw - possibly a failed attempt at suicide - and captured. After a few hours in the same cell that housed Marie Antoinette, Robespierre was unceremoniously dragged out to face the same fate as his former queen. He was guillotined; screaming in pain after the executioner tore away the bandage around his shattered jaw. The bloodiest revolutionary suffered a violent end, a victim of his own excesses.



Over 16,000 political prisoners faced the guillotine in the year of the Terror. Robespierre was one of its final victims

28 BEATRIX POTTER BORN 1866

It is a little surprising that Helen Beatrix Potter was born in West Brompton, close to the centre of London, given that she would find fame as a children's author who wrote and illustrated books about animals. However, her wealthy family could afford to holiday in the countryside of Perthshire and the Lake District, and it was here that the first seeds of Peter Rabbit, Miss Tiggy-Winkle and Jemima Puddle-Duck were sown.

29

PRINCE CHARLES AND DIANA MARRY 1981

The national celebration that arose from the fairytale wedding of the heir to the British throne gave little indication that the marriage would end so unhappily a decade later. The couple had known each other for four years, although had been courting for only one and Diana later claimed that they had met only 13 times before they were formally engaged.

So many guests were invited that the wedding had to be held at Saint Paul's Cathedral, rather than the traditional venue of Westminster Abbey. A further 660,000 well-wishers lined the route of Diana's journey to the cathedral, her last as a single woman. During the ceremony itself, which was conducted by archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, Diana accidentally mixed up Charles' first two names, calling him Philip Charles rather than Charles Philip. Still, that didn't spoil the occasion for the countless street parties across the British Isles, nor for the 750 million people around the world who watched the wedding on television. After the ceremony, the happy couple travelled to Buckingham Palace for a wedding breakfast with 120 guests. Presumably Diana had to loosen her £9,000 ivory silk taffeta wedding gown, since they had 27 different wedding cakes to consume.

When Charles and Diana kissed on the balcony of Buckingham Palace, a new tradition for royal weddings was born

30

BISMARCK DIES 1898

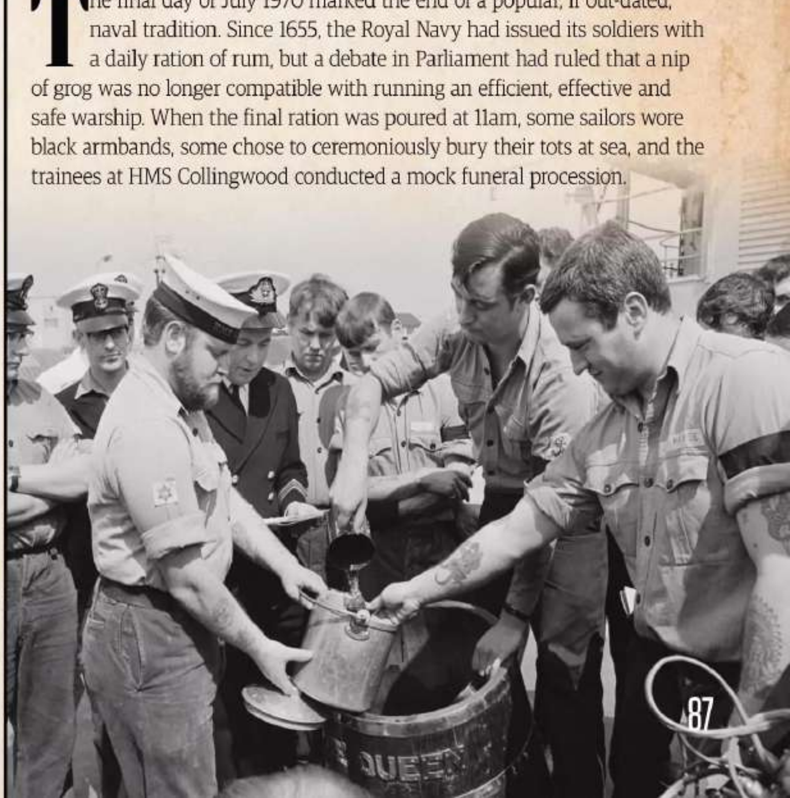
Bismarck was forced to resign within two years of Wilhelm II taking the throne, having found little common ground with the new kaiser

The pale, clearly ailing 83-year-old who was confined to his bed in the summer of 1898 was a shadow of the powerful force he had previously been in European politics. As minister president of Prussia, a post he held almost continually for 28 years, Otto von Bismarck oversaw the unification of Germany and became the first chancellor of the new nation. However, a gangrenous foot, respiratory problems and fever finally caught up with him. Shortly after midnight, the Iron Chancellor finally breathed his last.

31

BLACK TOT DAY 1970

The final day of July 1970 marked the end of a popular, if out-dated, naval tradition. Since 1655, the Royal Navy had issued its soldiers with a daily ration of rum, but a debate in Parliament had ruled that a nip of grog was no longer compatible with running an efficient, effective and safe warship. When the final ration was poured at 11am, some sailors wore black armbands, some chose to ceremoniously bury their tots at sea, and the trainees at HMS Collingwood conducted a mock funeral procession.

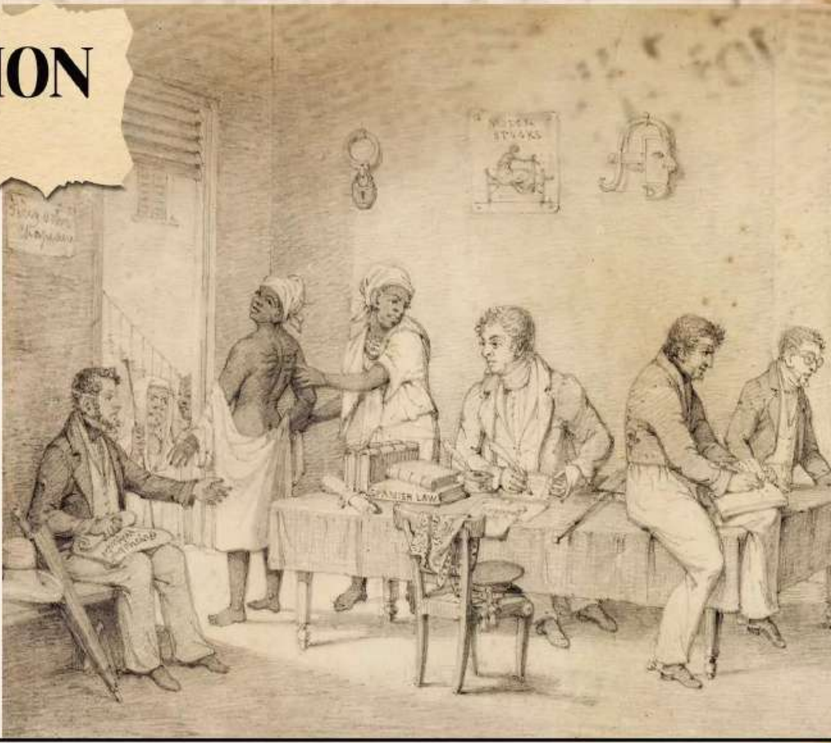


AUGUST

01 SLAVERY ABOLITION ACT ENACTED 1834

Throughout the 18th century and well into the 19th, Britain had built its fortunes and power base on the backs of thousands of slaves deported from Africa and the Caribbean. Emancipation transformed a nation into an empire, one that expanded deep into the New World and filled its coffers deep off countless men and women sold like cattle. However, the mixture of a changing world economy where Britain's sugar plantations were struggling to compete with its rivals and the growing influence of abolitionist movements helped usher in this watershed moment of British political history.

With King William IV providing royal assent, thus entering the act into the UK law of its time, the Slavery Abolition Act 1833 came into full effect on 1 August 1834. With the trade effectively outlawed, over 800,000 slaves were granted freedom. The emancipated workers were spread far and wide across the empire, from British soil all the way to the cold reaches of Canada. However, the legislation didn't include British-owned slaves in what was known as British North America, mainly due to a relatively small number of emancipated workers compared to those enslaved in other British colonies.



02 BATTLE OF CANNAE 216 BCE

In one of the bloodiest battles in ancient history, Rome confronted its greatest foe, Hannibal, at Cannae, in an effort to halt the Carthaginian commander's invasion of Italy. Hannibal had the Roman Republic on the back foot from the get go, destroying the Roman-allied city of Saguntum in Iberia (modern-day Spain) in 219 BCE, before shocking the world by crossing the treacherous slopes of the Alps to enter Italy with an army and 37 elephants the following year. He quickly defeated the Romans at Trebia and Lake Traismene.

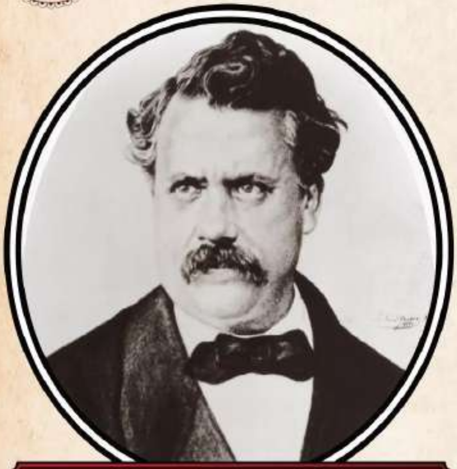
A panicked Senate appointed a dictator - a ruler temporarily entrusted with absolute power during an emergency - by the name of Quintus Fabius Maximus to take control. However, Maximus was wary of meeting Hannibal in open combat and favoured sending armies into the countryside to fall upon any towns that supported Rome's nemesis. He believed that this, coupled with depleting supplies and little hope of reinforcement, would fatally weaken Hannibal. It did not.

03 JESSE OWENS WINS GOLD 1936

Hitler intended Berlin's Olympic Games to showcase the Nazi regime, with Aryan competitors proving their superiority over the rest of the world. However, a black American athlete named Jesse Owens crashed that party, winning four gold medals in the 100 metres, 200 metres, long jump and 4x100 metres relay. Hitler quickly left the stadium after Owens' victories, possibly so he did not have to shake the black man's hand. Yet Owens found that international fame was no guarantee of prosperity in the segregated United States, and his post-Olympic years saw him employed in menial jobs, file for bankruptcy and be prosecuted for tax evasion.

Owens always denied that Hitler deliberately snubbed him, but he did complain that he was never congratulated by President Roosevelt

04 BORN ON THIS DAY



LOUIS VUITTON
1821

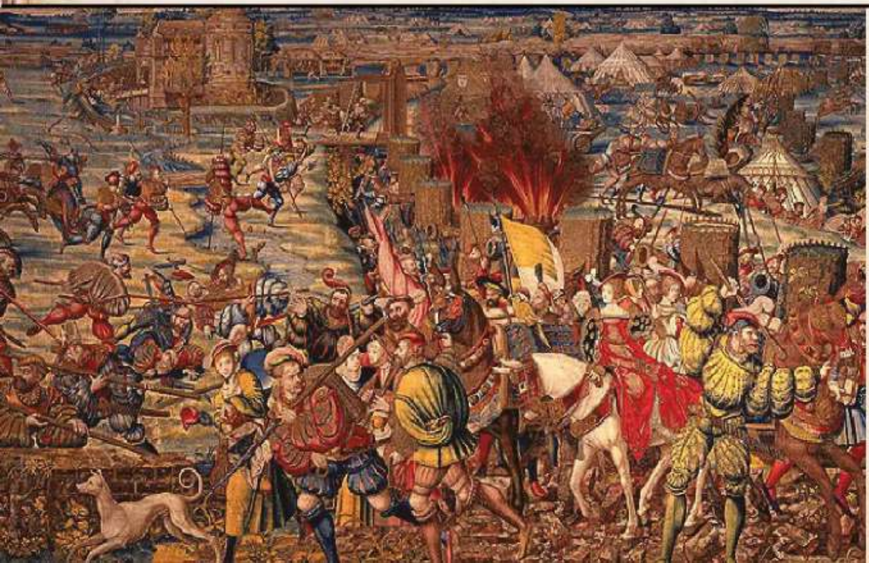
The man who founded one of the world's best-known fashion houses was born into a working-class French family. Initially a box-maker in Paris, Vuitton later branched out into high-quality leather luggage and trunks. Nowadays, the handbags that bear his distinctive LV logo are sold worldwide.

ELIZABETH BOWES-LYON
1900

After being parried to Prince Albert for 13 years, the Abdication Crisis meant the ninth child of the Bowes-Lyon family unexpectedly ended up the wife of the king. For the next 16 years Elizabeth was queen consort, and for another 50 after the king's death she was known as Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG
1901

Born and raised in New Orleans, it's hardly surprising that Armstrong was passionate about jazz. Although a wonderful singer known for his gravelly voice, Armstrong was also a phenomenal musician who was one of the first to use the trumpet as a solo instrument. He is still considered one of its finest ever players.



05 THE LADIES' PEACE 1529

The Treaty of Cambrai was signed between Francis I of France and Charles V, Holy Roman emperor, ending France's involvement in the Italian Wars. It was also known as 'the Ladies' Peace' because Louise of Savoy, King Francis' mother, and Margaret of Austria, Charles' aunt and his regent in the Netherlands, negotiated it. However, the treaty ultimately proved temporary as France soon rejoined the conflict, and the wars in Europe continued to roll on apace.

06 THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMB 1945

16 July 1945

5.29am

FIRST DETONATION
US scientists successfully detonate the first nuclear device at the Trinity test site

28 July

Japanese government rejects surrender terms put forward in the Potsdam Declaration

5 August

2pm

CALM BEFORE STORM
Having been told they have the go-ahead to drop the atomic bomb, Van Kirk and the rest of the crew try to get some sleep

6pm

The Little Boy bomb is loaded onto the Enola Gay

10pm

The crew gets up to prepare for the flight to Hiroshima and eat breakfast

6 August

12am

Van Kirk and the crew make their way to the Enola Gay, after a final briefing

1.37am

WEATHER REPORT
The three weather planes leave North Field Airbase on Tinian to confirm conditions are favourable

2.45am

The Enola Gay takes off, followed by three other B-29s taking part in Special Mission #13

5.52am

LITTLE BOY ARMED
The planes fly over Iwo Jima island, where the Enola Gay's backup, Top Secret, lands. The Little Boy bomb is armed

7.30am

With the all-clear from the weather planes, the Enola Gay, The Great Artiste and #91 head for Hiroshima

8.13am

Pilot, Paul Tibbets, hands over control to the bombardier, Tom Ferebee, to make the bomb run

8.15am

PAYLOAD DROPPED
Little Boy is released and it detonates 43 seconds after, about 600m (1,900ft) above the city of Hiroshima. The Enola Gay experiences a shockwave moments later

3pm

MISSION COMPLETE
The Enola Gay touches down on Tinian, its mission successfully completed. Paul Tibbets receives the Distinguished Service Cross

The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the first atomic weapons unleashed in war

In the hope of ending World War II, the United States dropped the first atomic bomb used for warfare onto Hiroshima, Japan, killing over 70,000 people.

The United States had started developing the nuclear bomb following a warning from Albert Einstein and other physicists in 1939 that the Germans were close to constructing their own. Project Manhattan got underway in 1941 and by July 1945 had successfully detonated the first-ever nuclear device in the Trinity test. By this point Germany had already surrendered so the Allied forces' sights were now trained solely on the last remaining Axis power: Japan.

Having refused an ultimatum to surrender in the Potsdam Declaration, the Allies felt they were left with two options: a full-scale invasion or the use of nuclear bombs. They opted for the latter. It remains one of the most controversial military decisions ever taken, yet many argue that invading Japan would have claimed many more lives in the long term.

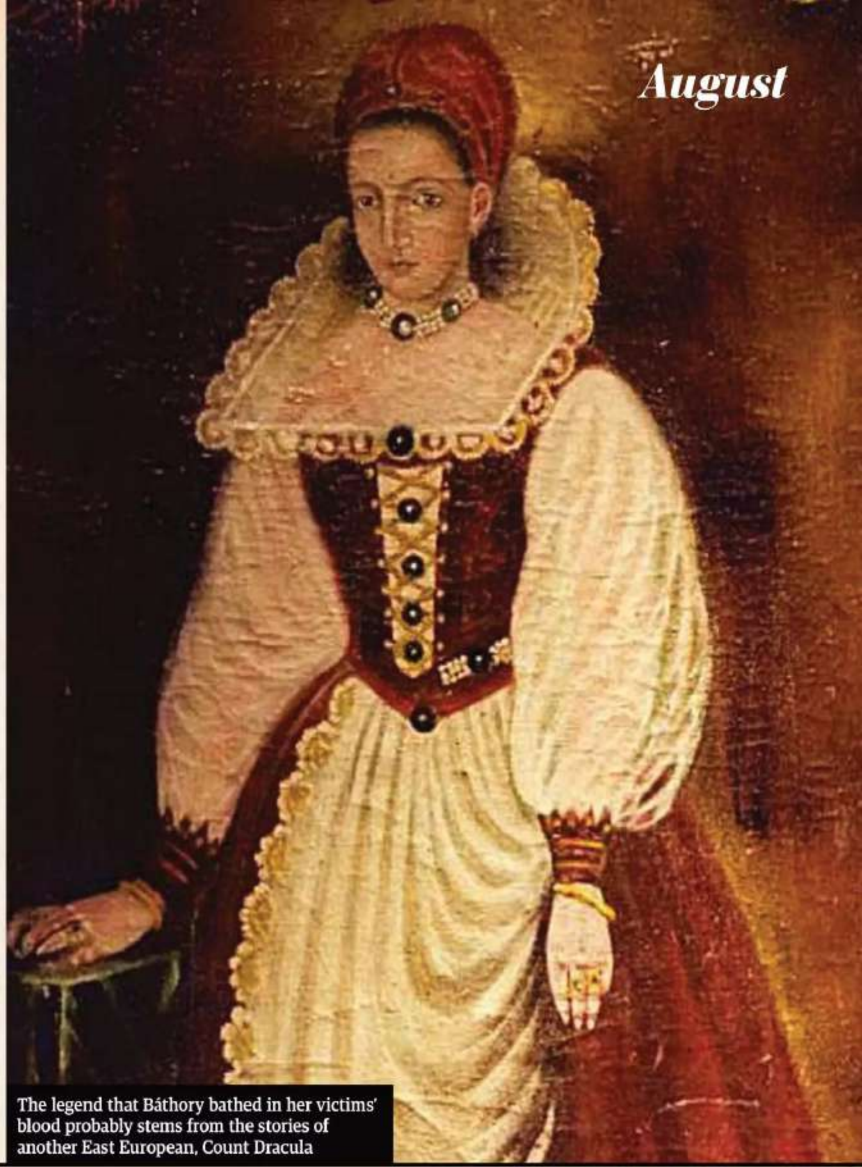
07

THE BLOOD COUNTESS BORN 1560

No one thought that the female child born into a Hungarian noble family would one day become one of Europe's most infamous serial killers. Elizabeth Báthory was given an excellent education and, once married, was trusted with running her husband's estates during his frequent absences with the Habsburg army. What he did not realise was that his wife had developed a desire to torture and kill young girls.

Subsequent investigations by notaries reporting to the Palatine of Hungary revealed that Bathory killed peasant servants who worked in her castle, as well as the daughters of lesser nobility who were sent to Bathory to learn courtly behaviour. When these avenues did not provide enough victims to satisfy Bathory's desire, more girls were abducted from the streets. Once imprisoned in Cachtice Castle, the girls were beaten, burned and mutilated, possibly even cannibalised, before being buried in graveyards or unmarked locations. The extent of Báthory's evil will never be known - she may have been responsible for as many as 650 deaths.

However, in order to protect the reputation of the ruling noble class, Báthory never faced trial. Instead she was quietly imprisoned, bricked up in a set of rooms in her own castle with food provided through a narrow slit. Báthory succumbed after four years of enforced isolation. The Blood Countess was dead.



The legend that Báthory bathed in her victims' blood probably stems from the stories of another East European, Count Dracula

08

CHADWICK SWIMS THE CHANNEL 1950

Florence Chadwick also swam the Straits of Gibraltar, the Bosporus, the Dardanelles and, as pictured here, the Bristol Channel

When 31-year-old long-distance swimmer Florence Chadwick reached Dover, having swum all the way from Calais in a record time of 13 hours and 23 minutes, she declared: "I am quite prepared to swim back." The next year she tried just that, swimming the harder leg from England to France first. Although she failed on the return leg, Chadwick did set a new record of 16 hours and 22 minutes and beat the record for swimming the Channel twice more in 1953 and 1955.

09

EXPULSION OF SINGAPORE 1965

The failure of Britain to defend Singapore from Japanese invasion in World War II effectively killed any chance of the city-state remaining a colony after 1945. Postwar negotiations led to Singapore joining the new Federation of Malaysia as one of 14 states, but two years of racial tension and riots ensued. Eventually, with Singaporean representatives not in attendance, the Malaysian Parliament voted by a margin of 126 to 0 to expel Singapore from the federation, granting the country a rather unusual form of independence against its own will.

Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's first prime minister, transformed his country into a first-world state over the next 31 years

10 SINKING OF THE VASA 1628

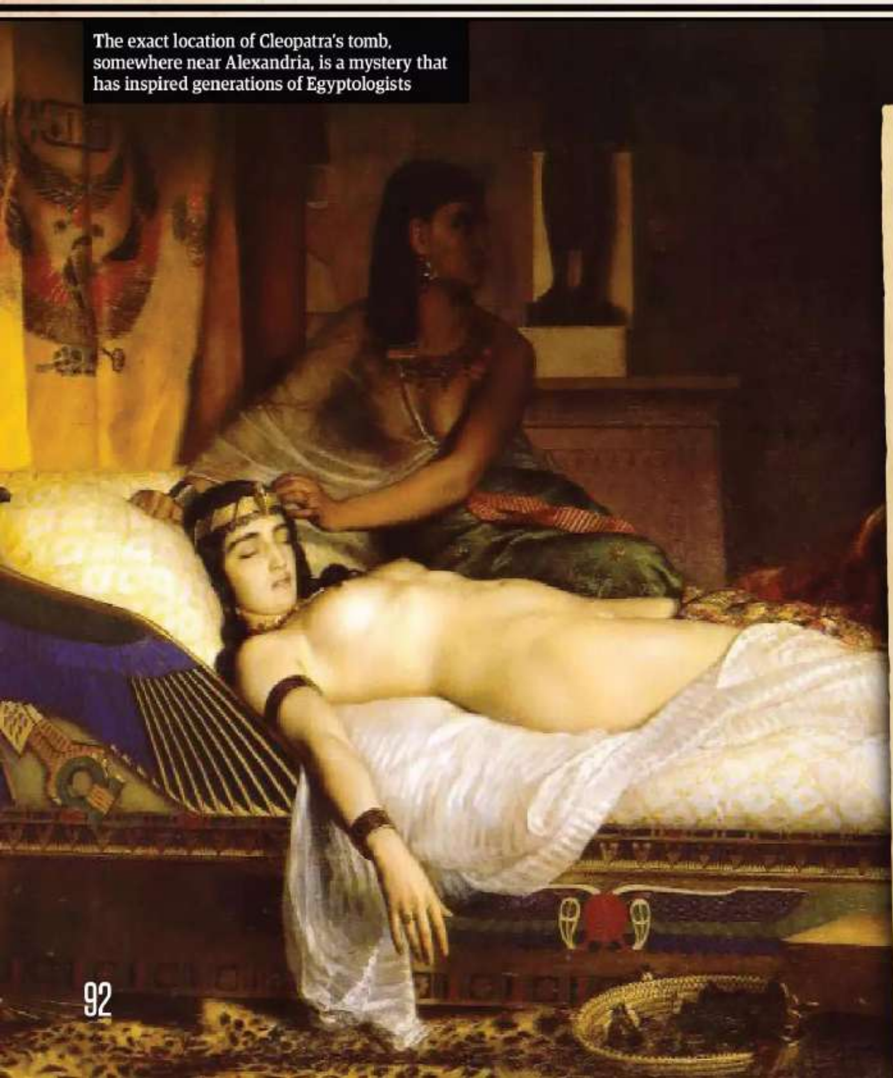
When the Swedish warship Vasa launched for the first time, King Gustavus Adolphus thought he had gained a powerful new weapon in his war against Poland. Unfortunately, he was so keen for the ship to see action that he ordered it to sail despite the reservations of some of his subordinates who doubted its design. The top-heavy warship managed to limp 1,300 metres out of Stockholm Harbour before flopping to one side and sinking. A crowd of hundreds, including foreign ambassadors, witnessed the ship's embarrassing end.

Vasa was salvaged in 1961, having been hidden underneath a busy shipping lane for over 300 years

11 ALLIES REJECT JAPAN'S SURRENDER 1945

The nuclear weapons dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki made perfectly clear that the Japanese had no chance of standing up to the Allies, and the USA in particular, in the final days of World War II. The day after Nagasaki was obliterated, the Japanese government communicated an offer to surrender through Swiss diplomats. However, despite an almost complete capitulation, Emperor Hirohito wished to carry on as Japan's sovereign ruler. The Allied rejection was quick - they insisted on unconditional surrender, something Hirohito and his ministers agreed to on 15 August.

Emperor Hirohito surrendered to General MacArthur but was allowed to retain limited power as a constitutional monarch


The exact location of Cleopatra's tomb, somewhere near Alexandria, is a mystery that has inspired generations of Egyptologists

12 CLEOPATRA DIES 30 BCE

There are few more famous deaths in history than that of Cleopatra, the last ruler of Ptolemaic Egypt. Legend has it that she committed suicide by having an asp bite her although, like all legends, its accuracy is disputed. Other sources suggest that Cleopatra actually poisoned herself with a needle, while some say that she was murdered to avoid the Egyptian queen becoming an inconvenient figurehead for opposition as a Roman prisoner.

What is clear is that Cleopatra's death brought to an end the Roman civil war that followed the death of her lover, Julius Caesar. In his scramble to take control of the Roman Republic, Mark Antony allied himself with Cleopatra and became her next romantic interest in the process. They lost a decisive naval battle to Caesar's adopted son, Octavian, at Actium in the Ionian Sea, and retreated to Cleopatra's powerbase in Egypt. However, Octavian chased them home and inflicted further defeats.

With capture inevitable, Cleopatra decided to kill herself and sent word of her intentions to Antony, who stabbed himself. Cleopatra was actually captured before she could carry out the deed and, now a prisoner in her own palace, managed to trick her guard into leaving. Then she finally ended her life, to be buried in her tomb alongside Antony.

13 BATTLE OF BLENHEIM 1704

The War of the Spanish Succession could have ended quickly had French armies managed to take the Habsburg capital, Vienna. However, British general the duke of Marlborough saved the city and kept his Holy Roman allies in the war after a daring march south to engage and defeat the French.

1. STORM OF LEAD

For his diversionary attack on the village of Blenheim, Marlborough gives Lt Gen John Cutts 20 infantry battalions and 15 cavalry squadrons. At 1pm, Cutts' six lines of soldiers advance with little cover, having to endure punishment not only from hundreds of concealed musketeers, but also from a battery of four 24-pounders adjacent to the village. One-third of Rowe's brigade is either killed or wounded in the near-suicidal attack.

2. GREAT BATTERY

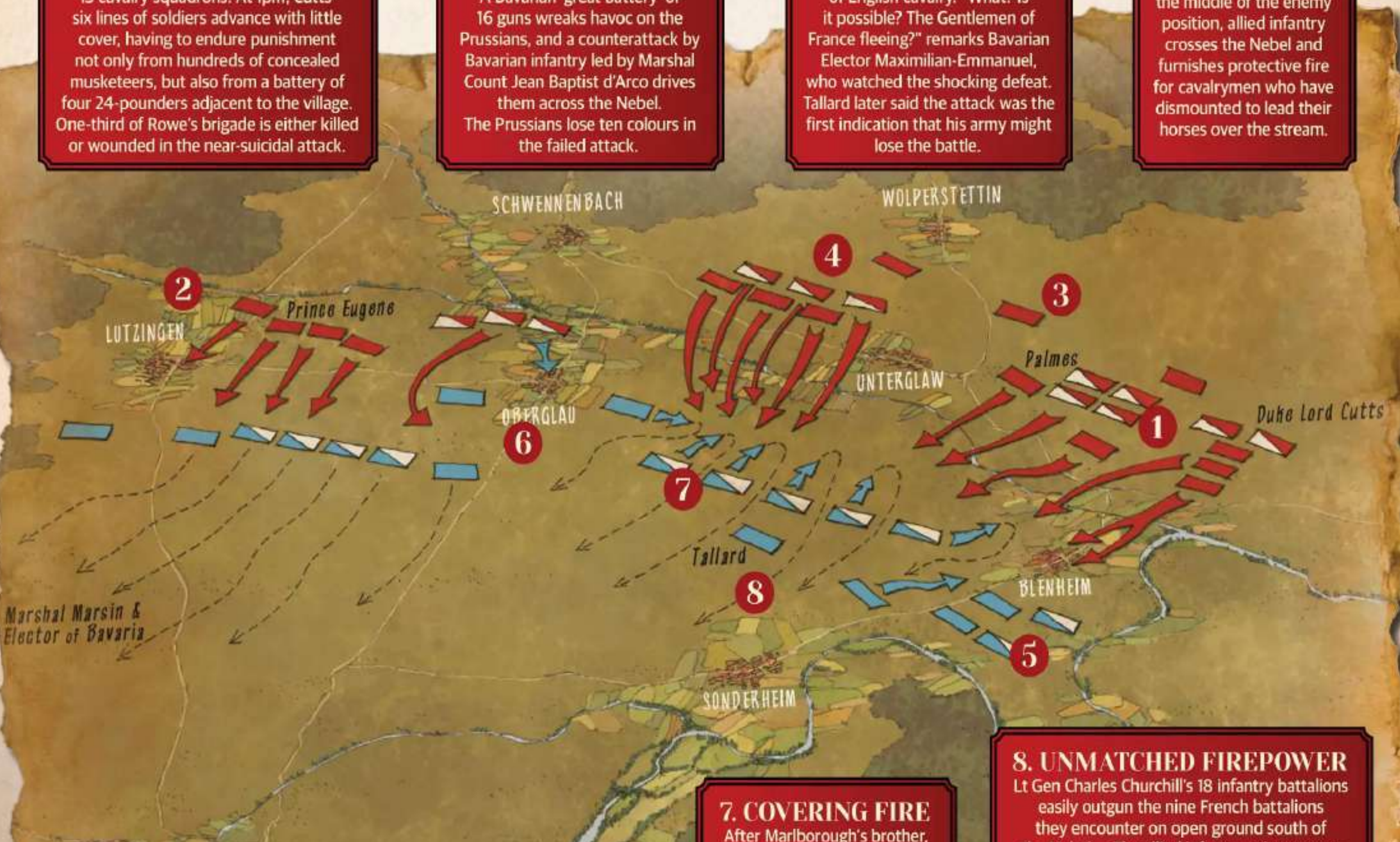
Prince Eugene's attack is spearheaded by Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau's Prussians. A Bavarian 'great battery' of 16 guns wreaks havoc on the Prussians, and a counterattack by Bavarian infantry led by Marshal Count Jean Baptist d'Arco drives them across the Nebel. The Prussians lose ten colours in the failed attack.

3. PUT TO FLIGHT

French morale plummets when the mounted French Gens d'Armes are defeated by a smaller force of English cavalry. "What? Is it possible? The Gentlemen of France fleeing?" remarks Bavarian Elector Maximilian-Emmanuel, who watched the shocking defeat. Tallard later said the attack was the first indication that his army might lose the battle.

4. DANGEROUS CROSSING

As Marlborough prepares for his main attack on the middle of the enemy position, allied infantry crosses the Nebel and furnishes protective fire for cavalrymen who have dismounted to lead their horses over the stream.



5. OUTWITTED COMMANDER

Lt Gen Marquis Philippe de Clérambault, the commander of the French infantry posted at Blenheim, crams so many musketeers inside the village that there is no space on the perimeter for many of them to fire at the enemy.

6. MISSED OPPORTUNITY

Unfortunately for the Franco-Bavarian army, Ferdinand, comte de Marsin, fails to see that if he sent a column of infantry and cavalry north from Oberglau to exploit the rout of the Prince Holstein-Beck's Dutch infantry, he might split the two wings of the allied army and set the stage for a French victory.

7. COVERING FIRE

After Marlborough's brother, Lt Gen Charles Churchill, and his assault force crosses the Nebel, the cavalry moves in front of the infantry. The infantry battalions leave gaps in their lines so that the cavalry can fall back and reform behind them unhindered.

8. UNMATCHED FIREPOWER

Lt Gen Charles Churchill's 18 infantry battalions easily outgun the nine French battalions they encounter on open ground south of the Nebel. The allied infantry enjoy greater firepower because it uses platoon firing, by which platoons fire successively in groups, so that a steady fire is maintained without pause. In contrast, the French line fires in unison with a pause to reload.

Although Marlborough's home was named Blenheim Palace after the battle, it was actually fought near the village Blindheim

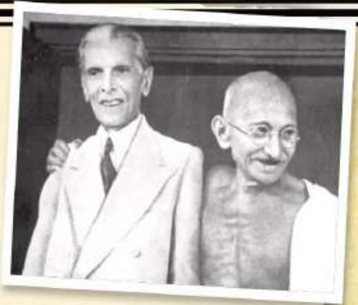
14

OPERATION BANNER BEGINS 1969

Faced with a series of mid-August riots powered by sectarian divisions, the government of Northern Ireland felt compelled to call in the support of the British Army to restore order. Although the Catholic community initially welcomed the British troops, relations between the two quickly soured. Little did Catholics, Protestants and soldiers alike realise that Operation Banner would continue for almost 38 years as the riots morphed into the paramilitary campaigns known as the Troubles.

The British Army's first objective was to restore order in the Bogside, the Catholic area of Derry, which had seen particularly violent fighting

15



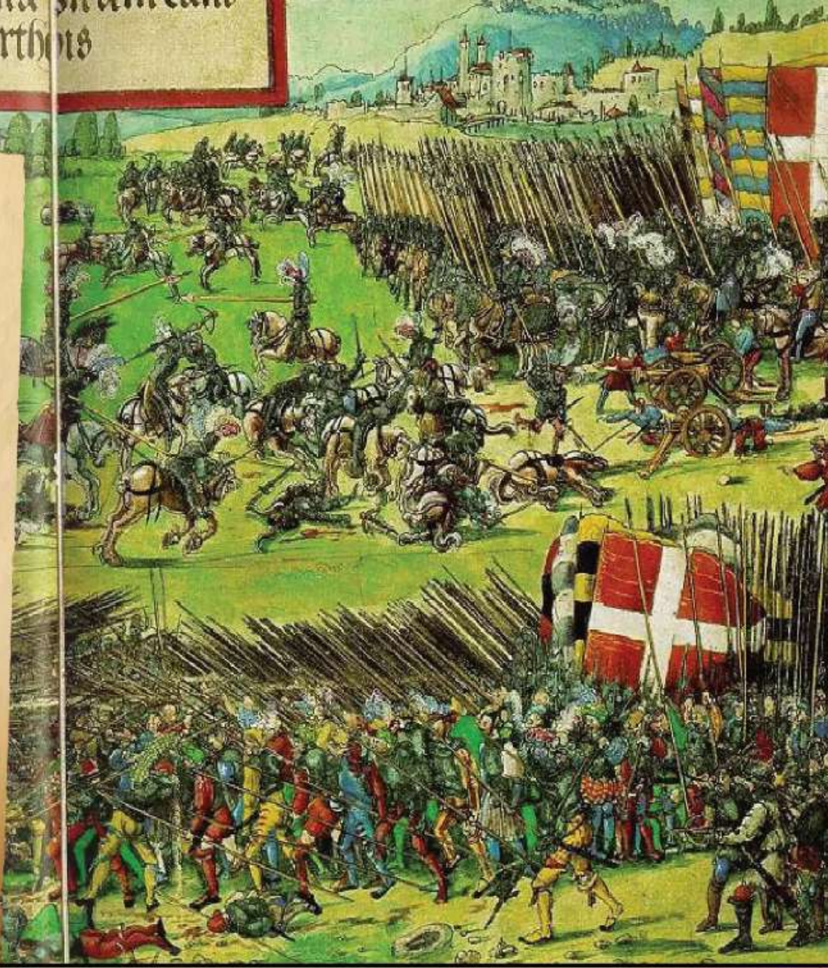
THE PARTITION OF INDIA 1947

After World War II, there were more calls for Indian independence than ever before. Clement Attlee, the British prime minister, was determined to oversee independence following his election in 1945, realising that India could no longer be supported and that it was at boiling point. While most Indians were Hindus, about one-quarter were Muslims, and Sikhs made up a significant minority. Jawaharlal Nehru, the Hindu leader of the pro-independence Congress, and Mahatma Gandhi, who encouraged non-violent methods, fell out with Muslim leader Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Jinnah increasingly pushed for a second independent Islamic state. A compromise - to create one federalised country - was rejected by Nehru, who feared it would leave India ungovernable. Some historians argue that the British wanted a two-state solution as Congress were unlikely to have allowed Britain to maintain troops to protect Asia from Communist influence. With no agreement, Britain proposed borders that arbitrarily chopped up the religiously mixed and wealthy Bengal and Punjab regions.

These plans were kept secret until after Independence Day on 15 August 1947. Violence soon erupted on all sides. Of the 899,000 Muslims that attempted to migrate by foot and train, between 500,000 and 800,000 died trying to enter West Punjab (Pakistan). 1.25 million non-Muslims moved to the Indian side of the Punjab. Those who didn't die of starvation or exhaustion were slaughtered by rival sides.

Roughly 5.5 million Hindus and Sikhs escaped to India in 1947-48, while 5.8 Muslims fled to Pakistan



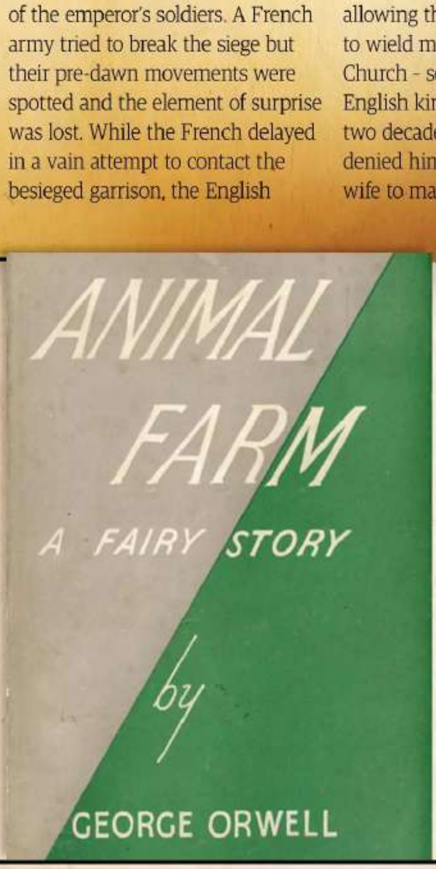
16

BATTLE OF THE SPURS 1513

Although England played a bit-part in the Italian Wars, during which France and the Holy Roman Empire sought to stamp their own influence on the Italian city-states and the Papacy, Henry VIII could not resist the chance to join with Emperor Maximilian I in the hope of stealing a slice of northern France for himself. His troops landed at Calais and laid siege to nearby Thérouanne, supported by some of the emperor's soldiers. A French army tried to break the siege but their pre-dawn movements were spotted and the element of surprise was lost. While the French delayed in a vain attempt to contact the besieged garrison, the English swept towards the attackers in overwhelming numbers and rolled them from the field.

Thérouanne fell six days later, soon followed by Tournai. Henry had earned the military victory he coveted and discovered that his queen, Catherine of Aragon, had organised a successful defence of England against Scottish invasion at the Battle of Flodden.

Henry had also weakened French influence on the papacy, allowing the Holy Roman emperor to wield more power over the Church - something that the English king would come to regret two decades later, when the pope denied him leave to divorce his wife to marry Anne Boleyn.



17

ANIMAL FARM PUBLISHED 1945

George Orwell's scathing satire of Stalinism initially struggled to find a publisher because most were unwilling to upset the fragile alliance between the UK, USA and USSR at a time when the world was still at war. Publisher Jonathan Cape rejected *Animal Farm* after seeking guidance from the Ministry of Information, although the civil servant who proffered the advice was later found to be a Soviet spy. It eventually saw the light of day under Secker and Warburg and was an immediate commercial success.

> "All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others"

18

1227

GENGHIS KHAN DIES

In his life, the Mongol leader united Mongolian nomadic tribes and conquered land across Asia to create the largest empire in history. He died after leading his armies on one final campaign in the kingdom of Xixia.

1920

WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE ACHIEVED IN THE US

Nashville legislators passed the amendment to give women the vote. Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify, and so women's suffrage became law throughout the entire US.

1964

OLYMPIC BAN

South Africa was banned from the Olympic Games in Tokyo as the government refused to end racial discrimination and allow multiracial sporting competition. The ban would be lifted for the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.

1965

OPERATION STARLITE

The first major battle of the Vietnam War was launched. The US military had received intelligence of an imminent Vietcong attack on the base of Chu Lai, and so launched a successful amphibious attack involving 5,500 Marines.

19 DIEPPE RAID 1942

By the summer of 1942, the Nazi Army had maintained a stranglehold on continental Europe for over two years. Hoping to put a dent in that record, the Allies planned a raid to seize Dieppe in Normandy. Just over 6,000 soldiers made it ashore, but they were grossly unprepared to face the strong German defences and, by the time the operation was called off ten hours later, more than half had been killed or captured. It would be another two years before another invasion of Normandy was attempted - thankfully, lessons had been learned in the interim.

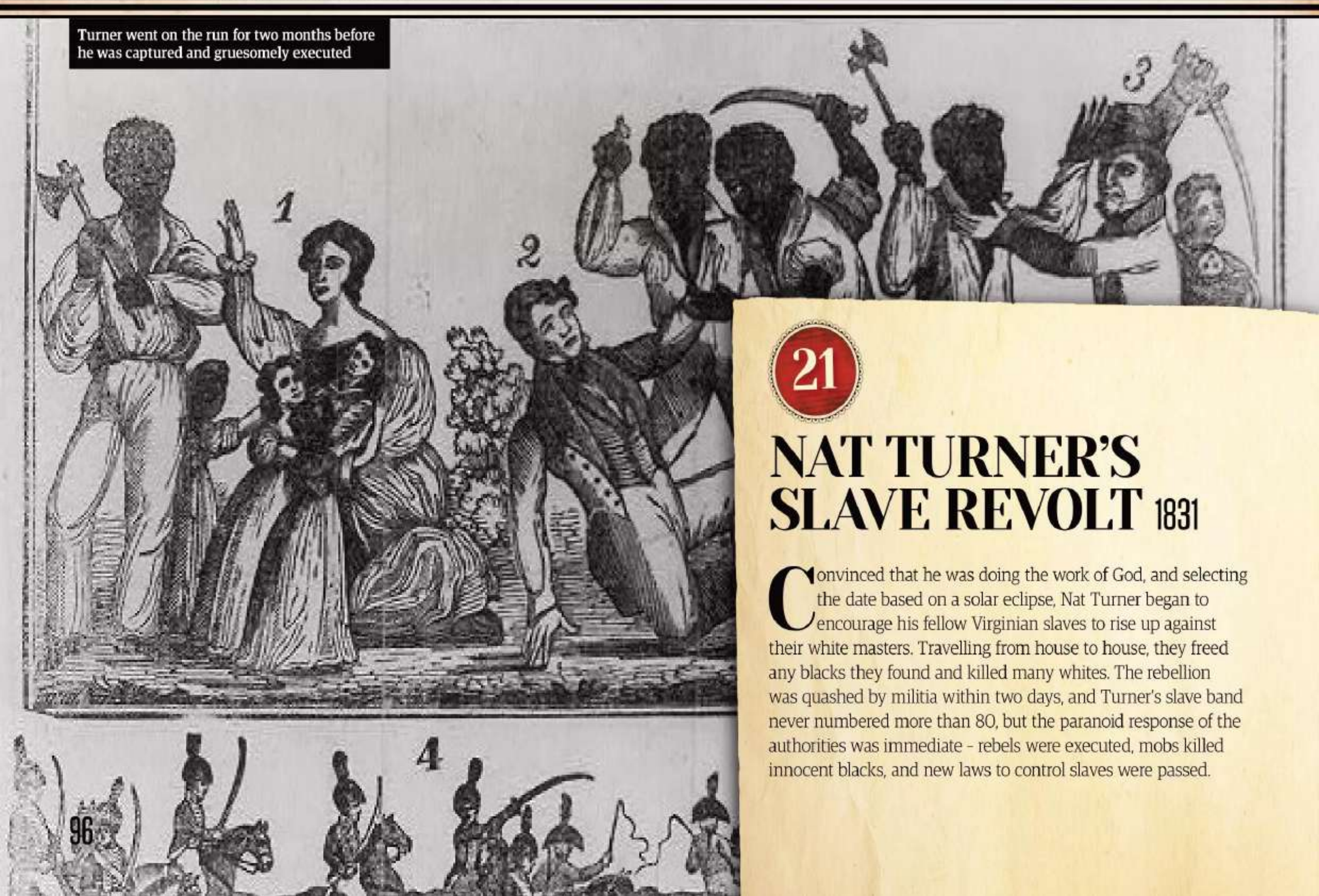
The Dieppe Raid aimed to prove that an invasion of occupied Europe was possible, but failed miserably

20 PUTIN RESIGNS FROM KGB 1991

Vladimir Putin joined the KGB - Komitet gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti, or Committee for State Security - as a young and idealistic 22-year-old in 1975. He found himself working in Dresden as the Berlin Wall fell, then in Leningrad when the failed 1991 coup against Mikhail Gorbachev was being attempted.

Putin described this as a watershed moment: "I immediately decided which side I was on." He chose to support the reformists and resigned from the KGB on the second day of the coup. A political career followed that would see him rise to the presidency of Russia.

As East Germany collapsed, Putin was tasked with burning countless secret KGB files to prevent them falling into the wrong hands



Turner went on the run for two months before he was captured and gruesomely executed

21 NAT TURNER'S SLAVE REVOLT 1831

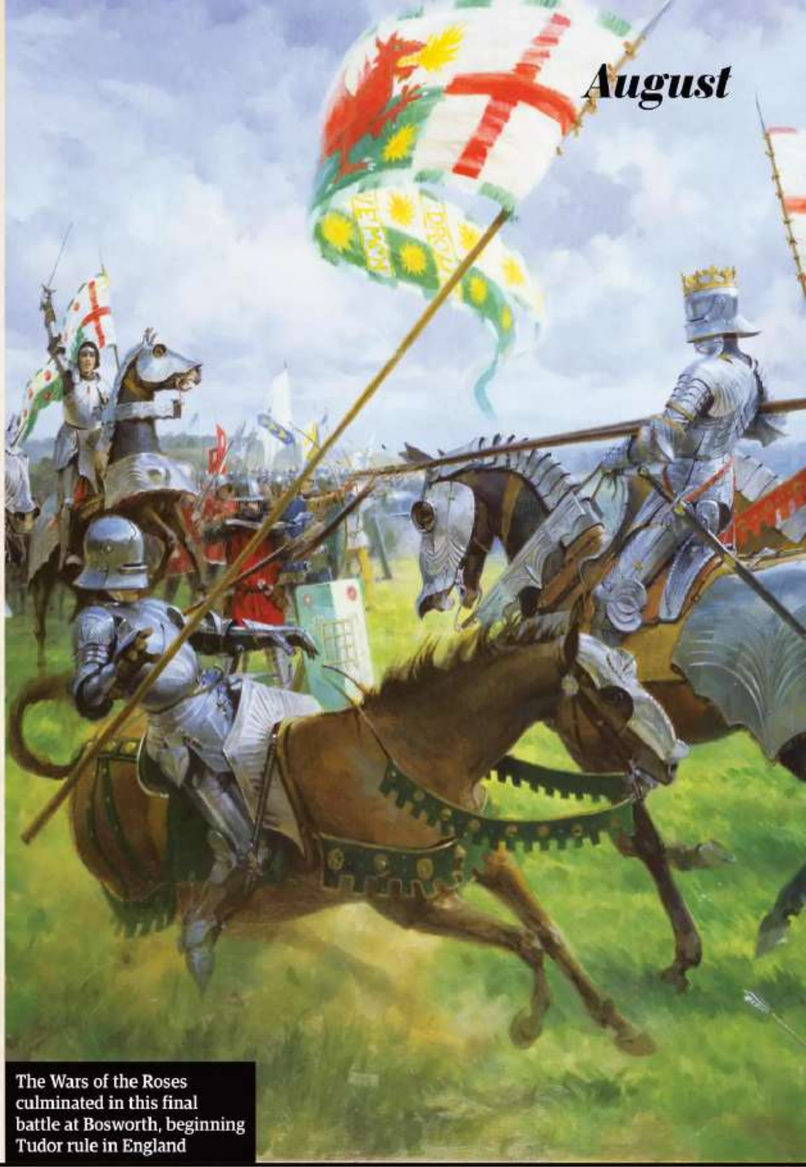
Convinced that he was doing the work of God, and selecting the date based on a solar eclipse, Nat Turner began to encourage his fellow Virginian slaves to rise up against their white masters. Travelling from house to house, they freed any blacks they found and killed many whites. The rebellion was quashed by militia within two days, and Turner's slave band never numbered more than 80, but the paranoid response of the authorities was immediate - rebels were executed, mobs killed innocent blacks, and new laws to control slaves were passed.

22 BATTLE OF BOSWORTH 1485

On a sunny morning in a field in the north of England, the future of the British Isles would be decided forever with the blood of 1,000 or more English, Welsh and French men. Casting his eye over the scene and the force coming to meet him, Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, could see the standard of his rival fluttering in the wind - the white boar of Richard Plantagenet, one of the last remaining sons of York. He stood not just between him and the route to London but, crucially, the English throne. Peering purposefully across the divide separating the two armies, Richard was able to spot Henry's standard - the red dragon of Wales. If he could win the day, he would secure his legitimacy as king and send a message to any other pretenders and traitors.

The hatred between Richard's family and their rival for the crown of England, the House of Lancaster, had been raging on and off the battlefield for decades in the bitter civil struggles known as the Cousins' War. Horrific slaughter had torn the country in two, but had not resulted in a lasting peace or a decisive end to the struggle. The Wars of the Roses, as we know them today, would come to a final end on the field of Bosworth.

Richard chose to camp close to Ambion Hill near Bosworth Field to cut off Henry's advance towards the capital, as well as to give him a commanding view of the southern approach. Henry's force had spent the night further to the southwest, at White Moors. Much of the strategic decisions, as well as direct control of the army, was given to the duke of Oxford, one of Henry's allies and a fierce enemy of the Yorkists. A third force, which would be capable of tipping the coming clash in either man's favour, was under the command of the Stanley brothers. The battle ended with the defeat of Richard, and Henry became king.



The Wars of the Roses culminated in this final battle at Bosworth, beginning Tudor rule in England

23 THE NORRMALMSTORG ROBBERY 1973

On 23 August 1973, Stockholm's Kreditbanken endured a hostage situation when Jan-Erik Olsson wreaked havoc in the Swedish capital. The criminal gunman demanded that his friend and bank robber Clark Olofsson be brought to him along with 3 million Swedish Kronor and more weaponry.

Olofsson was brought to the location, and over the next few days the two took up residence in the bank vault with the hostages. The robbery didn't get far, and ended on 28 August when the police managed to capture the two gunmen.

During the six days, an unusual situation unfolded in the bank vault in which the captives began to sympathise with the crooks who had imprisoned them. Behaviour such as this is now known as Stockholm Syndrome.

Olsson was sentenced to ten years in prison for his part in the Norrmalmstorg robbery, but Olofsson was released on appeal

24

ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS 79 CE

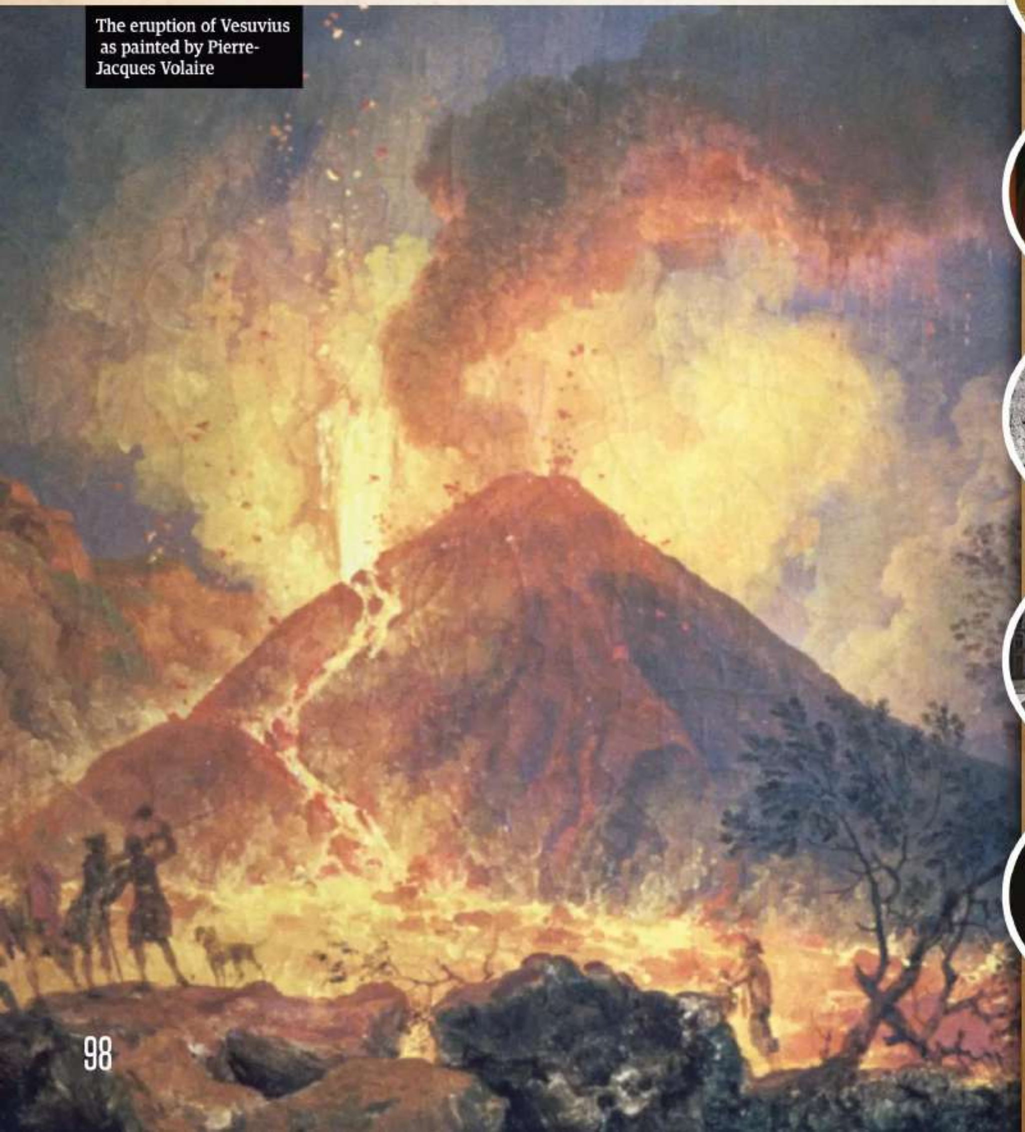
The whole bay was caught unaware - no one saw it coming. As the Earth trembled beneath their feet, everyone thought it was just another fleeting earthquake. Little did they know what would come over the next few hours.

According to Pliny the Younger, one of the only primary sources we have of the event, a cloud began ascending from the volcano that loomed over the Bay of Naples at about 1pm. He likened it to a pine tree, "for it shot up to a great height in the form of a very tall trunk, which spread itself out at the top into a sort of branches". The plume shot to 33 kilometres (20 miles) high and the south-westerly wind cast a long shadow, plunging Herculaneum, Pompeii and other nearby cities into darkness.

There was panic in the streets. As the buildings around them began to collapse,, citizens ran to the shore, hoping for boats to come and rescue them. Because of the raining pumice, none could reach them. They were trapped, at the mercy of the volcano erupting behind them.

That night, those in Pompeii who hadn't tried to flee to the shore found themselves in more danger than they had been before. The debris put so much pressure on the buildings that the roofs collapsed, crushing whoever was beneath them. At midnight, the ash cloud abruptly collapsed, causing a pyroclastic surge of hot gas and rock to rush down the side of the mountain. Headed for Herculaneum, it killed everyone it touched. At dawn the next morning, those still alive in Pompeii met the same fate.

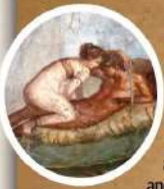
The Roman cities were buried, and over time they were forgotten about. The world moved on until one day in the 17th century, when a surveyor discovered the remains of Pompeii under layers of dirt and ash. There, frozen in time, was the remains of a city's last hours.



The eruption of Vesuvius as painted by Pierre-Jacques Volaire

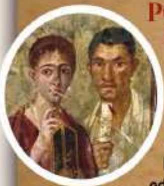
POMPEII'S GREATEST FINDS

Archaeologists have recovered a number of spectacular and revealing objects that speak volumes about what life was once like in Roman Pompeii



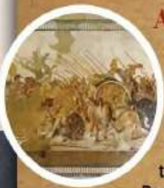
EROTIC ART

A number of pieces of erotic art have been found throughout the remains of Pompeii, demonstrating numerous couples getting intimate. They provide extra detail as to what life was like for the Pompeiian people, as well as valuable detail on painting techniques and materials.



PORTRAIT OF PAQUIUS PROCULO

Probably the most important fresco to be discovered in Pompeii, this portrait shows a middle-class Pompeiian man and his wife. He wears a toga and holds a rotulus, showing he was involved in public affairs, while she holds a stylus and wax tablet, showing she was educated and literate.



ALEXANDER MOSAIC

Discovered in the House of the Faun in Pompeii, this mosaic depicts the battle between the armies of Alexander the Great and Darius III of Persia. It is an important find as it is one of the most famous depictions of Alexander that survives, and also an excellent example of the Roman mosaic craft. It is also a reminder of Pompeii's pre-Roman origin.

FUNERARY STATUE

This funerary statue is impressive in both scale and artistry, being commissioned by a wealthy Pompeiian family to adorn a family tomb. Its purpose was to remind both the living and dead of the deceased's worthy deeds and virtues. It also lets archaeologists know this family were important and well off.

INSCRIPTIONS

Throughout Pompeii there are a number of enlightening inscriptions carved into the stone. These help archaeologists piece together further the jigsaw of what life was like for the men, women and children of ancient Pompeii. One inscription in the city's basilica states "Lucilla ex corpore lucrum faciebat", which translates as "Lucilla made money from her body".

HOUSE OF THE VETTII

The most famous and luxurious residence to be excavated in all of Pompeii, the House of the Vettii was owned by two freedmen and, thanks to careful excavation, retains much of its structure, objects and frescos today. The site is really important in depicting how wealthy Pompeiians lived, and the structure and layout of their residences.

HUMAN REMAINS

Thanks to 19th-century Italian archaeologist Giuseppe Fiorelli's plaster casts of Pompeii's victims, we have a clear and horrific picture of how many Pompeians lost their lives when Vesuvius erupted. These tormented death throes have become an image of Pompeii and draw archaeologists from around the world.

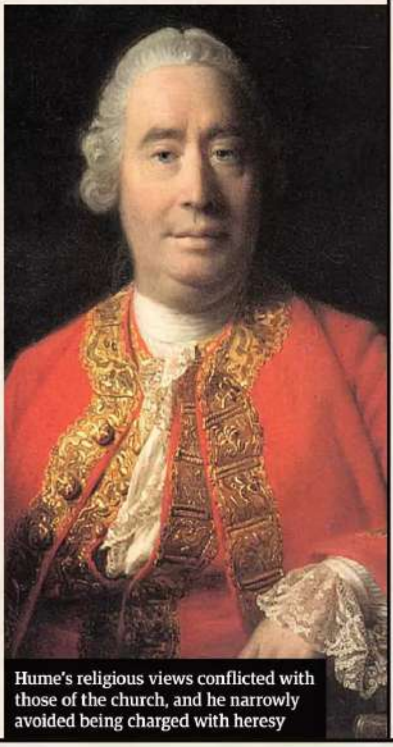
25

DAVID HUME DIES 1776

In the last year of his life, Scottish philosopher David Hume wrote an autobiography in which he candidly admitted that his "love of literary fame" kept him going "notwithstanding my frequent disappointments".

It was an unpretentious and humble judgement that few would agree with, since Hume was one of the key thinkers in the British Empiricist school. Influenced by Isaac Newton's scientific investigations, Hume wanted to make the study of human philosophy and cognitive science a more evidence-based discipline.

James Boswell visited Hume before his death where he revealed he though it the "most unreasonable fancy" that there might be an afterlife.

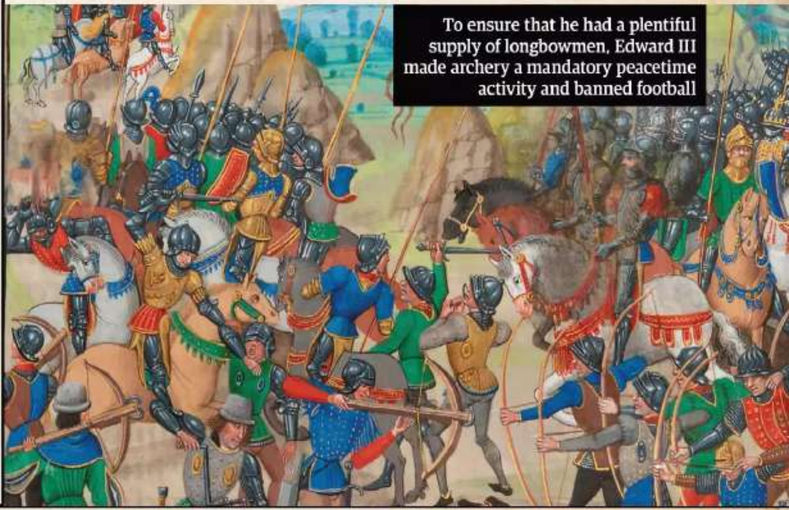


Hume's religious views conflicted with those of the church, and he narrowly avoided being charged with heresy

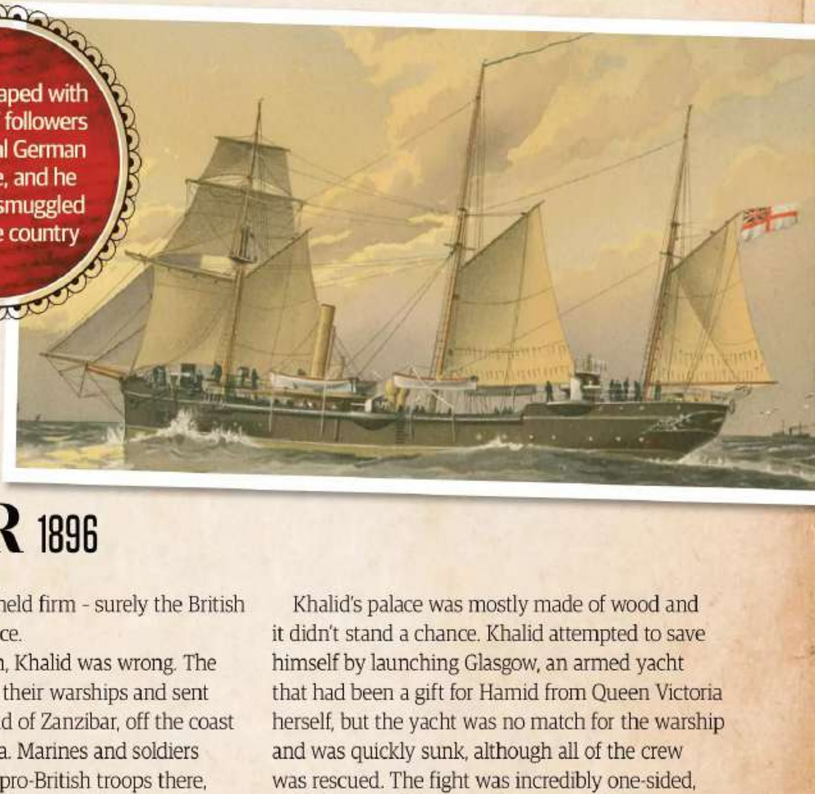
26

BATTLE OF CRÉCY 1346

If the Battle of Agincourt was the encounter in which the longbow proved most successful, the Battle of Crécy was the one in which it first rose to prominence. One-third of the invading English army was made up of longbowmen, and they targeted the French mounted knights from long range as the cavalry tried repeatedly to breach the English lines. It wasn't just the estimated 2,000 French knights and nobility who lay on the battlefield at the end of the day - the age of chivalry died too.



To ensure that he had a plentiful supply of longbowmen, Edward III made archery a mandatory peacetime activity and banned football



Khalid escaped with a group of followers to the local German consulate, and he was later smuggled out of the country

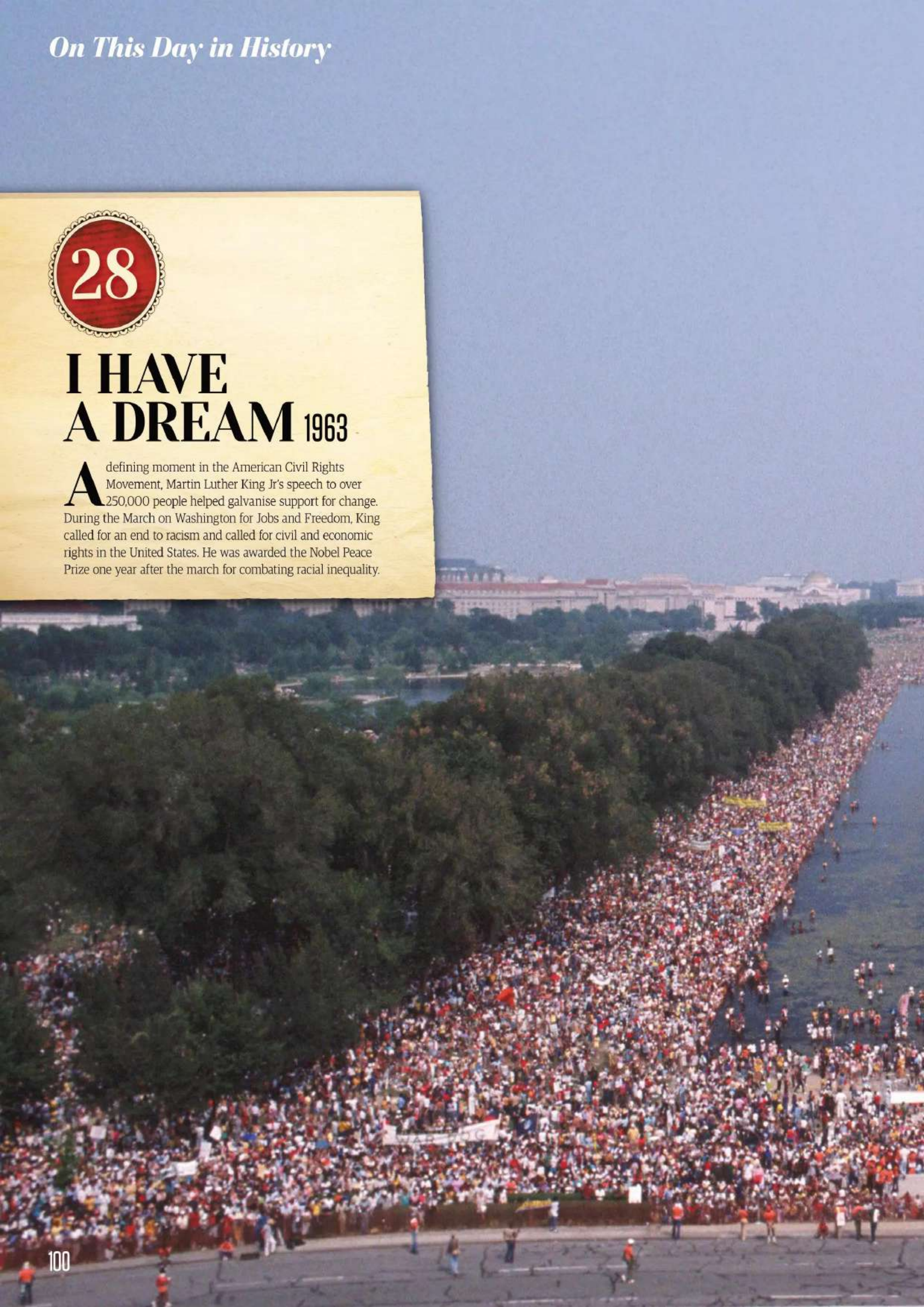
27

ANGLO-ZANZIBAR WAR 1896

The shortest conflict in history, the Anglo-Zanzibar War raged for all of 38 minutes and was the result of a succession dispute. When Zanzibar's sultan Hamad bin Thuwaini, a pro-British ruler, died on 25 August 1896, Britain wanted Hamud bin Muhammed to take control of the island nation. Khalid bin Barghash disagreed - he wanted the throne for himself, and took it in a coup with his artillery and troops placed around the palace. Not wanting to attack, the British sent ultimatum after ultimatum, hoping for a negotiation to take place. However, Khalid held firm - surely the British wouldn't attack his palace.

Unfortunately for him, Khalid was wrong. The British began to muster their warships and sent five of them to the island of Zanzibar, off the coast of modern-day Tanzania. Marines and soldiers went ashore to join the pro-British troops there, and when Khalid refused to stand down on the morning of 27 August, Rear-Admiral Harry Rawson raised the signal on his flagship, the cruiser HMS St George. The British would fight.

Khalid's palace was mostly made of wood and it didn't stand a chance. Khalid attempted to save himself by launching Glasgow, an armed yacht that had been a gift for Hamid from Queen Victoria herself, but the yacht was no match for the warship and was quickly sunk, although all of the crew was rescued. The fight was incredibly one-sided, with the British losing only one out of their 1,000 men, while Zanzibar had 500 injured out of 3,000. Britain's victory ensured that its desired successor, Hamud, became sultan of Zanzibar.



28

I HAVE A DREAM 1963

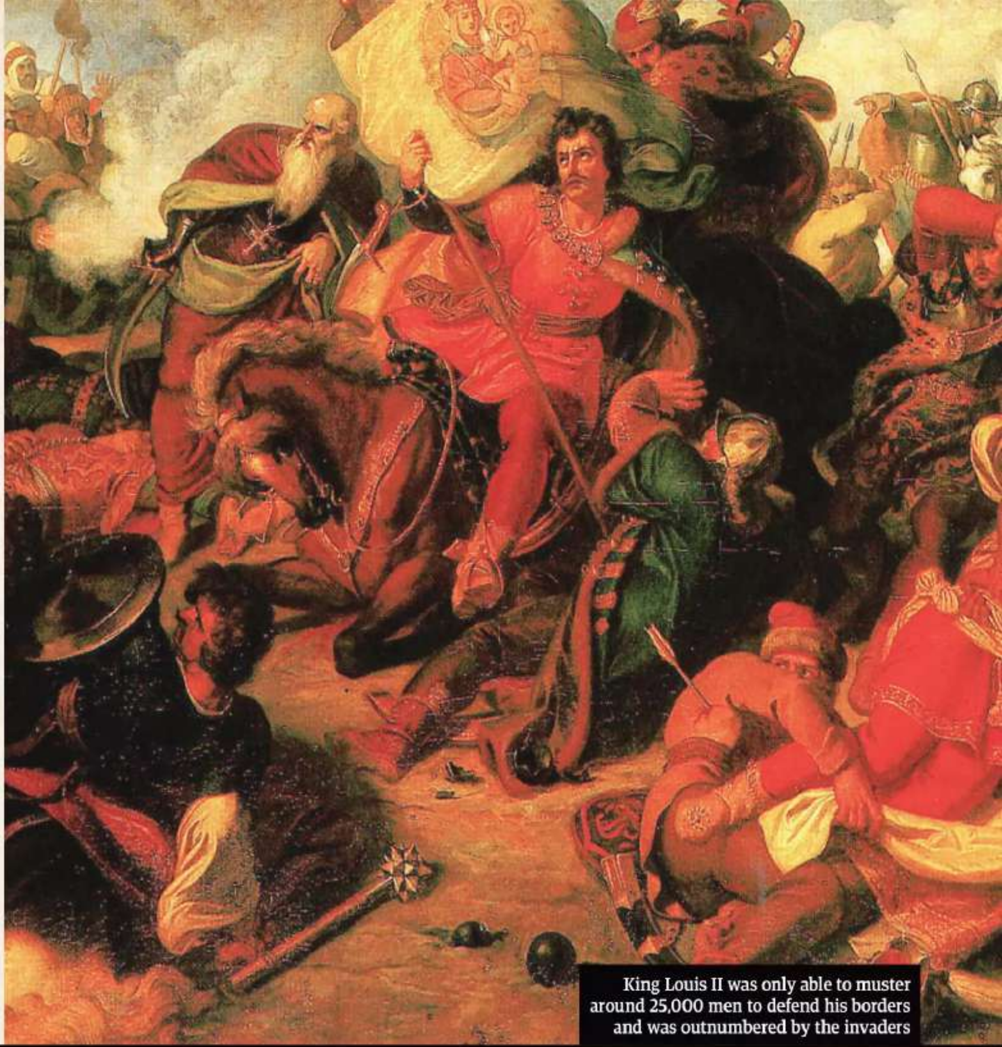
A defining moment in the American Civil Rights Movement, Martin Luther King Jr's speech to over 250,000 people helped galvanise support for change. During the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, King called for an end to racism and called for civil and economic rights in the United States. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize one year after the march for combating racial inequality.

29

BATTLE OF MOHACS 1526

The Battle of Mohacs was a turning point in central European history. The kingdom of Hungary had existed for more than half a millennium after nomadic tribes settled on the land after migrating from the east, but the independent nation came to a sudden and catastrophic end when Ottoman troops invaded the country, aiming to seize territory and place pressure on the Holy Roman Empire.

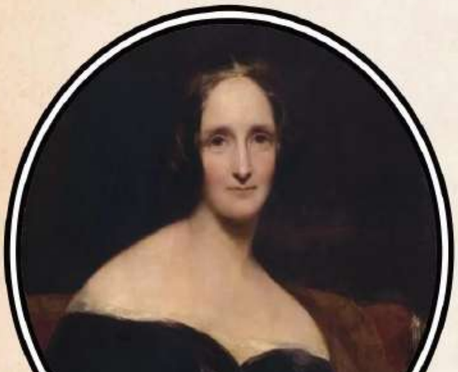
The decisive victory of the invading force allowed Suleiman the Magnificent's Ottoman Empire to reach its furthest extent in Europe by annexing the south and east of Hungary, while the death of Louis II as he fled the battle marked the end of the Jagiellonian dynasty in the rest of Hungary and Bohemia. The throne passed to the house of Habsburg after a brief internal conflict, bringing Austria and Hungary into joint rulership for the next 392 years.



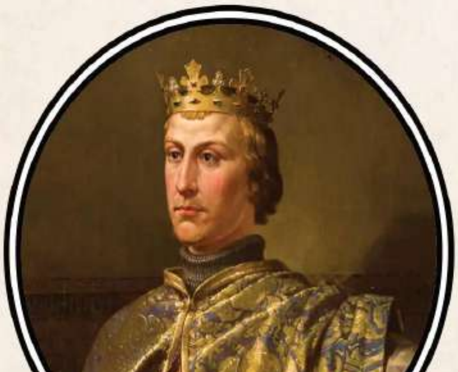
King Louis II was only able to muster around 25,000 men to defend his borders and was outnumbered by the invaders

30

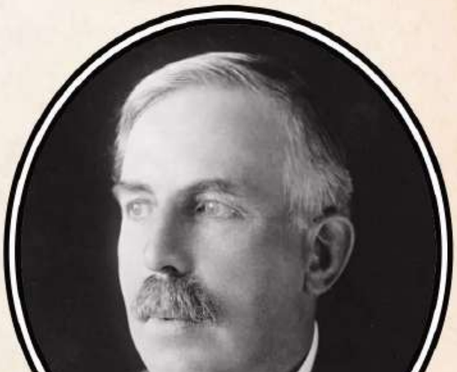
BORN ON THIS DAY



MARY SHELLEY
1797



PETER OF CASTILE
1334



ERNEST RUTHERFORD
1890

Born to philosopher parents William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft, who died a few days after her birth due to complications in, Mary later married poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. However, she won fame in her own right upon the publication of *Frankenstein: or, The Modern Prometheus*, a classic of Gothic fiction and early pioneer of science fiction. Published in 1818, it is still popular today.

Few figures are as divisive as this king of Castile and Leon. Some see him as Pedro the Cruel, a vicious ruler who deserted his wives and relied on assassinations to retain control. To others, he is Pedro the Just who was himself murdered by his half-brother. However he is viewed, he ruled Castile and Leon from 1350 at the age of just 15 to 1369 when his brother defeated and assassinated him.

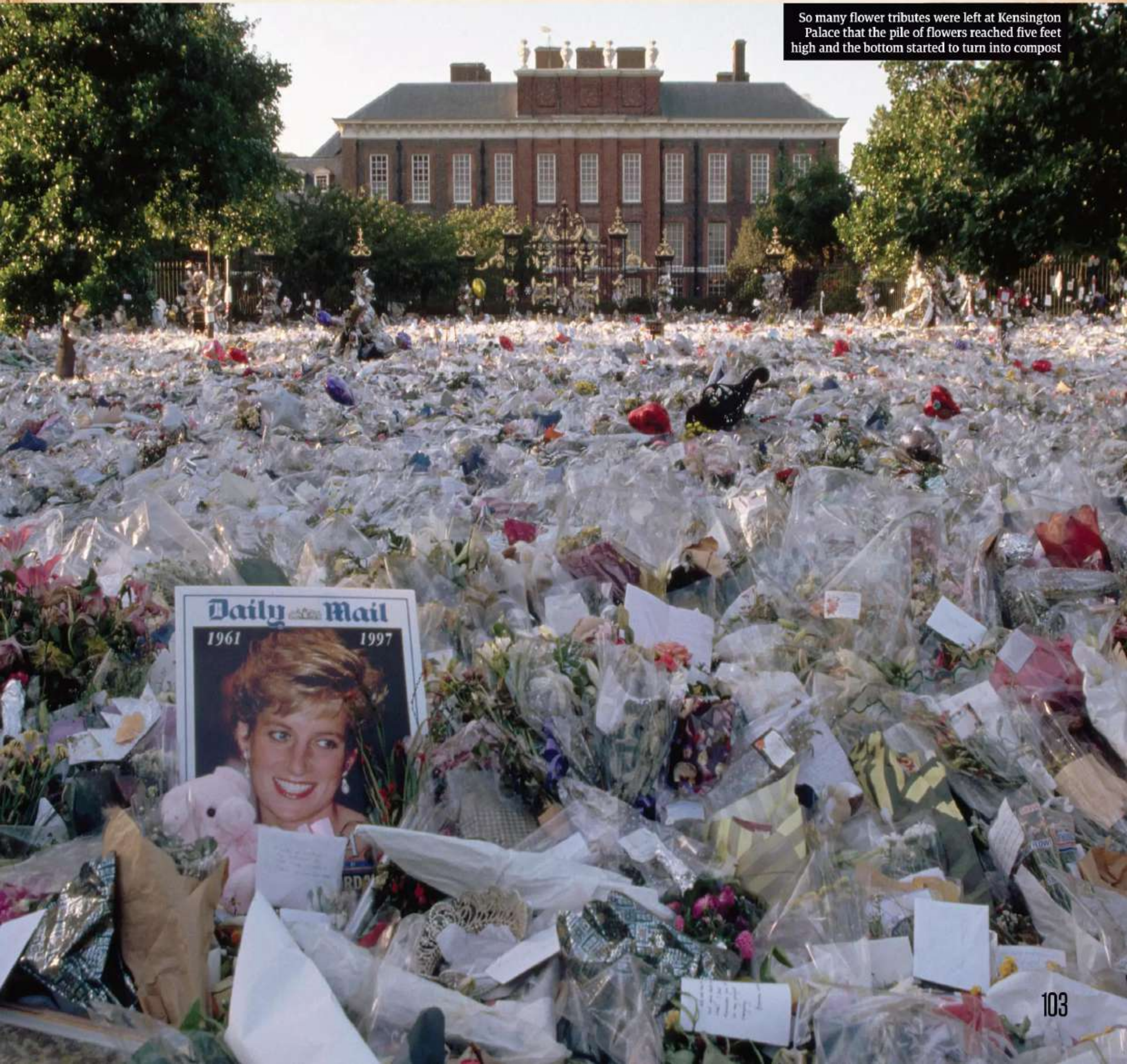
Well-travelled physicist Rutherford was born in New Zealand and gained academic positions in Montreal, Manchester and Cambridge to study radioactivity and the structure of atoms. Awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1908 - actually before he made some of his more important discoveries - Rutherford is commonly regarded as the father of nuclear physics.

31 PRINCESS DIANA DIES 1997

Britain awoke to shocking news on the last day of August 1997. In the early hours of the morning, Diana, the former Princess of Wales until her divorce from Prince Charles had been involved in a car crash in Paris. She had been travelling in a Mercedes driven by security officer Henri Paul with her companion, Dodi Fayed, and a bodyguard, Trevor Rees-Jones. Only Rees-Jones survived - Paul and Fayed were declared dead at the scene, Diana died in hospital three and a half hours after the accident.

The royal family initially responded quickly to the tragedy. Prince Charles, arrived at the French hospital with her three sisters within 11 hours of her death and the very same day, Diana's body was flown back to England in a coffin draped with the Union flag. However, the royals also faced criticism for their rigid adherence to protocol, in particular due to a refusal to fly a flag at half-mast over Buckingham Palace. The public reaction, by comparison, was profound. An extraordinary national outpouring of grief followed. More than 1 million bouquets were left at Diana's London home, Kensington Palace, while well-wishers spent hours queuing to sign books of condolence. At her funeral mourners lined the streets, throwing flowers at the cortege as it passed.

In suffering such an early and tragic death, Diana's reputation as a forever young and stylish icon of the royal family was sealed. The spasm of national grief that followed her death ensured her legacy as, in Prime Minister Tony Blair's words, "the people's princess".



So many flower tributes were left at Kensington Palace that the pile of flowers reached five feet high and the bottom started to turn into compost

SEPTEMBER

01 INVASION OF POLAND 1939

On 1 September 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland, and just two days later both Britain and France declared war on Germany. World War II had officially begun.

The campaign in Poland was devised by General Franz Halder, chief of the general staff, but it was ultimately Hitler who gave the order to invade. Germany employed Blitzkrieg (which translates as 'lightning war') tactics, denting Poland's front lines with Panzer tanks and aircraft before troops moved through the gaps that this created. The approach was hugely successful, although it was not one that Hitler came up with himself. On 27 September 1939 Poland surrendered, although it took a Soviet invasion from the east dividing the country to make it happen.

The effects of this campaign were felt across the globe and signalled the start of World War II. Hitler would go on to employ the same tactics in other countries, including France in 1940.

> **"If Germany was going to have a war, then September 1939 was probably the best time to attack. The Allies were getting stronger, so the timing was working against Germany at that point and I think Hitler even said that. But, of course, he was counting on Britain and France to stay out of it. He figured they would let Poland go; he underestimated them on that point"**
>
> **Dr Megargee**

General Franz Halder (left) with General Von Brauchitsch

Hitler watches on as German troops march towards Poland

02 FIRE OF LONDON 1666

London in the autumn of 1666 was dry, dirty and dusty, no rain having fallen in ten long months. In the plague-ridden city, the wooden tenements were just waiting to go up in flames. When night fell on Saturday 1 September 1666, baker Thomas Farriner closed his Pudding Lane bakery and went to bed. As he slept, the bakehouse coals he thought were safely extinguished caught light, and before long the ground floor of the bakery was ablaze. Its infernal progress seemingly unstoppable, once the fire hit the dockside and the highly combustible cargoes stored there, all chances of extinguishing it quickly were lost.

Fleeing before the raging conflagration, Londoners tried to save what they could. They hurled their belongings into boats and handcarts, or even into the river. Soon the hot, narrow streets were an impassable tide of the dispossessed as thousands of people ran for their lives. Firefighters couldn't break through the panicked mass and the king, far from safe in his palace, took action.

Charles II gave the order to tear down every building in the path of the fire, hoping to stop it with firebreaks. Still the blaze spread, and by Monday the north bank of the Thames was alight and London Bridge was aflame. As civil unrest threatened, the king put his brother, the duke of York, in charge of dealing with the fire. York took charge of the controlled demolitions, and his troops were dispatched to quell unrest in the streets. Stories tell that Charles II himself came into the city and pulled down buildings, throwing water onto the flames.

As the wind fell on Tuesday night, the firebreaks had finally started to do their job. The raging flames gradually died down, but not before leaving thousands homeless, terrified and utterly lost in a London that had become unrecognisable.

The fire burned at

1700°C

2/3RDS

of London Bridge was burned, saving Southwark and the city south of the river

1

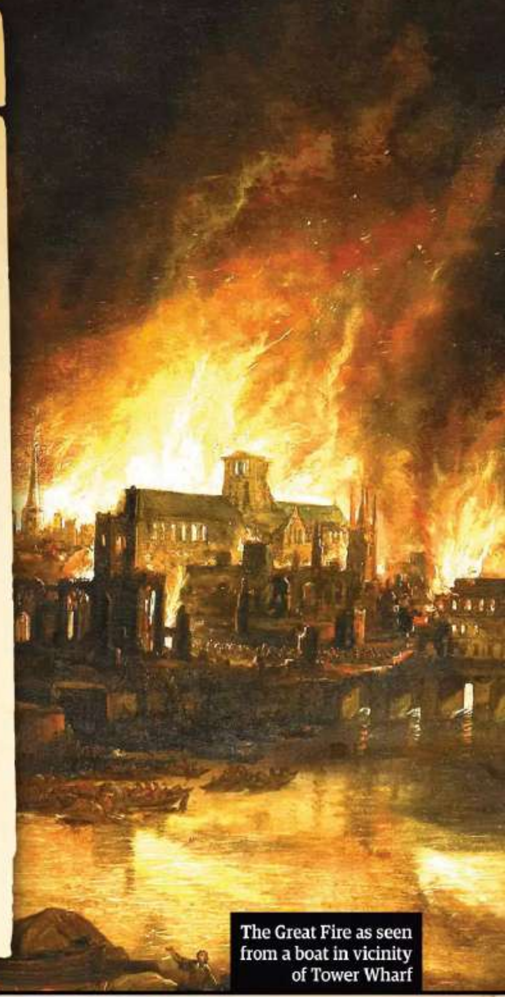
cathedral was razed to the ground

The fire burned for

3 NIGHTS

6 DEATHS

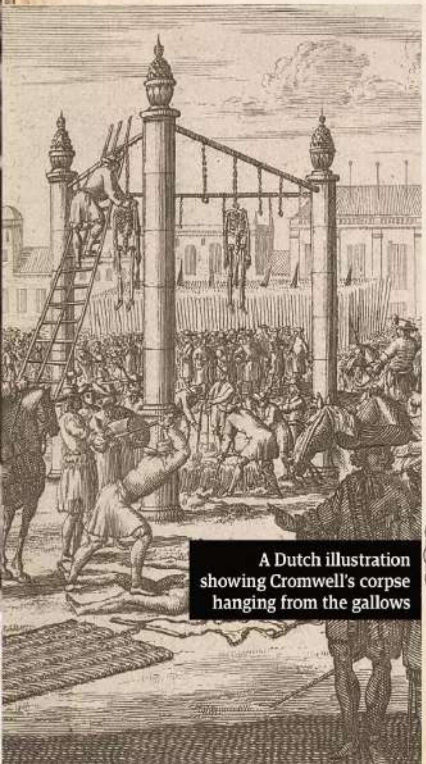
were recorded



The Great Fire as seen from a boat in vicinity of Tower Wharf

03

OLIVER CROMWELL DIES 1658



A Dutch illustration showing Cromwell's corpse hanging from the gallows

Though buried with a state funeral, the cracks soon began to show in the austere facade of Britain's parliamentary dictatorship. Parliament erupted into a bitter war of words as the forces kept on Cromwell's leash turned on one another. Desperate for unifying leadership, in 1660 Charles II was invited to return from exile and take up the crown that had been knocked from his father's head.

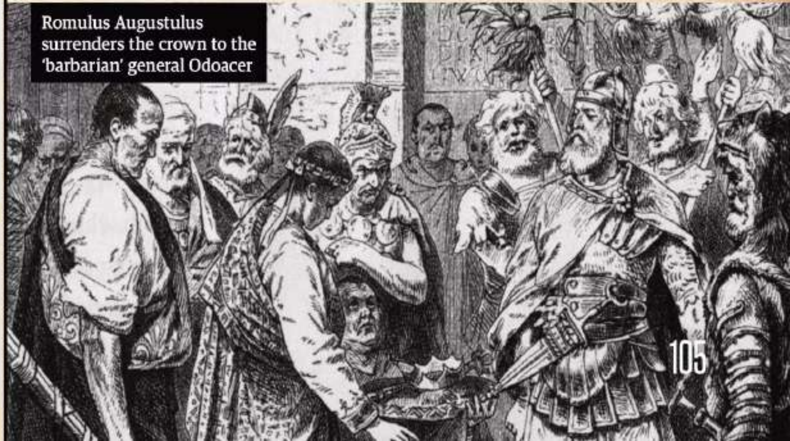
On 30 January 1661 – the 12th anniversary of the execution of Cromwell's adversary King Charles I – Cromwell's body was exhumed and given an 'execution' for treason. The severed head was displayed on a pole and the body hung in chains

04

END OF THE WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE 476 CE

While no single event brought down the Western Roman Empire, the defeat of Emperor Romulus Augustulus by mutinous mercenary leader Odoacer, who proclaimed himself king of Italy instead, was traditionally seen as the final nail in the Roman coffin.

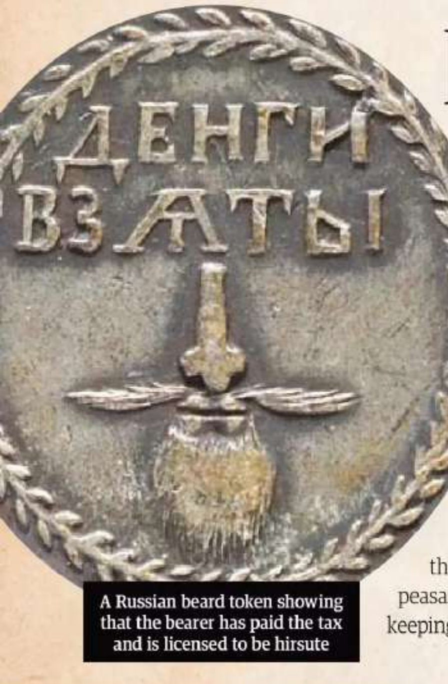
In reality, Odoacer's usurpation was confined to Italy, and represented merely the most recent humiliation in a period of Rome's weakening influence. Rather than appoint another useless co-emperor, the Eastern emperor Zeno abolished the East/West division following Odoacer's death in 493 CE and ruled directly, placing what remained of the Roman Empire in Italy, northern France and the Western Balkans under the control of Constantinople.



Romulus Augustulus surrenders the crown to the 'barbarian' general Odoacer

05

PETER THE GREAT TAXES BEARDS 1698



A Russian beard token showing that the bearer has paid the tax and is licensed to be hirsute

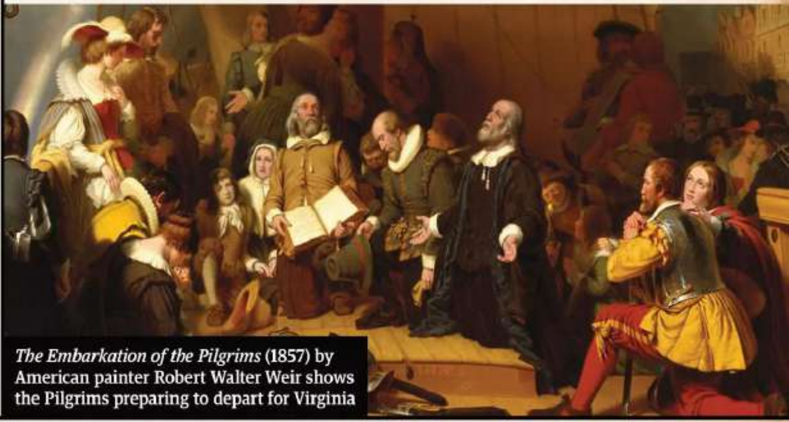
Determined to drag Russia kicking and screaming from its feudal past and reinvent it as a modern European power, ambitious and energetic Tsar Peter the Great set upon the idea of forcibly shaving his subjects to bring them in line with Western standards of male beauty. Dismissed as blasphemous by the (heavily bearded) Russian Orthodox Church, the tsar backed down and settled for a tax allowing men to keep their beards in exchange for a fee. Suitably for an Enlightenment autocrat, the beard tax was means-tested so peasants paid less than aristocrats for keeping their beard.

06

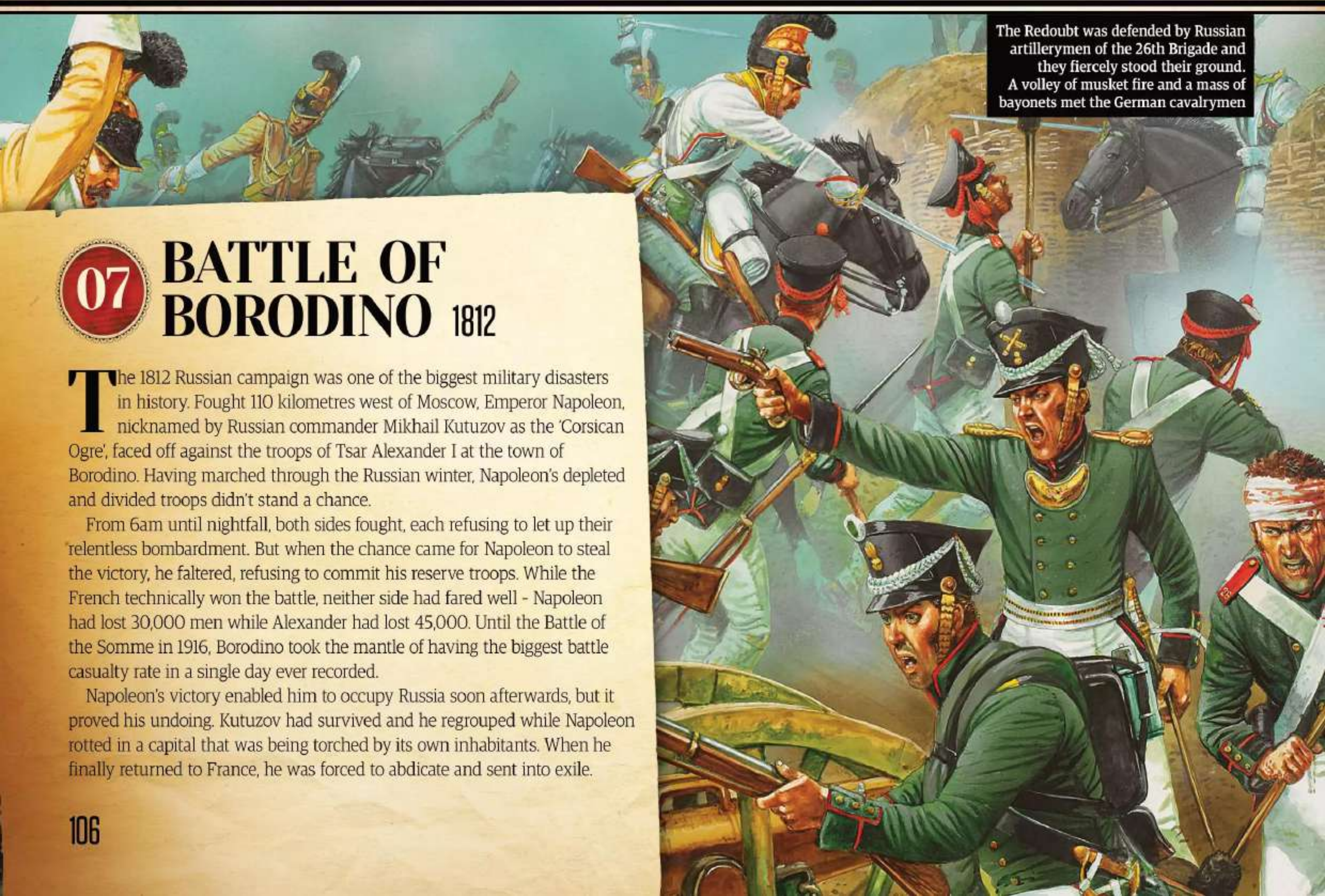
THE MAYFLOWER SETS SAIL 1620

Setting out on a "prosperous wind" from Plymouth, the 'Pilgrim Fathers' were heading for the Virginia colony where they had been given permission to settle and practise their particular strand of Puritanism free from the influence of the Church of England.

The Pilgrims landed instead at Plymouth, in what is now Massachusetts. There they established the second successful English settlement in North America and over the following centuries became a vital part of the foundation myth of the United States of America.



The Embarkation of the Pilgrims (1857) by American painter Robert Walter Weir shows the Pilgrims preparing to depart for Virginia



The Redoubt was defended by Russian artillerymen of the 26th Brigade and they fiercely stood their ground. A volley of musket fire and a mass of bayonets met the German cavalrymen

07

BATTLE OF BORODINO 1812

The 1812 Russian campaign was one of the biggest military disasters in history. Fought 110 kilometres west of Moscow, Emperor Napoleon, nicknamed by Russian commander Mikhail Kutuzov as the 'Corsican Ogre', faced off against the troops of Tsar Alexander I at the town of Borodino. Having marched through the Russian winter, Napoleon's depleted and divided troops didn't stand a chance.

From 6am until nightfall, both sides fought, each refusing to let up their relentless bombardment. But when the chance came for Napoleon to steal the victory, he faltered, refusing to commit his reserve troops. While the French technically won the battle, neither side had fared well - Napoleon had lost 30,000 men while Alexander had lost 45,000. Until the Battle of the Somme in 1916, Borodino took the mantle of having the biggest battle casualty rate in a single day ever recorded.

Napoleon's victory enabled him to occupy Russia soon afterwards, but it proved his undoing. Kutuzov had survived and he regrouped while Napoleon rotted in a capital that was being torched by its own inhabitants. When he finally returned to France, he was forced to abdicate and sent into exile.

Leonard Nimoy as Spock and William Shatner as Kirk in 'The Man Trap', the first aired episode of *Star Trek*

08

FIRST STAR TREK EPISODE AIRS 1966

Airing for the first time in the United States (it had debuted in Canada two days earlier), 'The Man Trap' was actually the third episode of *Star Trek* recorded and followed two pilot episodes in which creator Gene Roddenberry wrangled over the cast and format.

Reviewers were baffled by the plot, but the story of a barren planet with a shape-shifting alien woman attempting to prey on the crew of the USS Enterprise established many of the basic conventions of the show, which has aired in many incarnations for over 50 years and found millions of fans around the globe.

09

CHAIRMAN MAO DIES 1976

After 27 years in power, Chinese communist leader Mao Zedong died having transformed China into a single-party state and birthed a growing superpower at the cost of over 40 million lives in the brutal purges of the Cultural Revolution and the forced modernisation of the Great Leap Forward.

The leader's health had been a closely guarded state secret. A heavy smoker, Mao had been wrestling with lung and heart problems for years, and had suffered a heart attack in March 1976 and another that July. The third and final heart attack that year struck on 5 September and he died just after midnight four days later.

His flag-draped corpse lay in state for a week while an estimated 1 million performative mourners filed past, weeping openly. Mao had requested cremation, but his widow Jiang Qing decided he should be embalmed like his idol, Lenin, and he was interred in a mausoleum in Beijing where the Party faithful could publicly pay their respects to him.

Mao's legacy remains extremely controversial and subject to intense propaganda in which the Chinese Communist Party continue to claim victory over the Japanese in World War II (when in fact the nationalists did the bulk of the fighting), praise Mao's role in ending the decade-long Civil War, and credit his policies with the rise of China as an economic powerhouse in the decade following his death.

Under Mao, life expectancy and literacy in China rose, industrialisation and infrastructure were improved, and the country regained its confidence as a nation. Alas, an estimated 40 to 70 million people who died as a direct result of his policies were unable to feel the benefit of progress.

Hysterical mourners shuffle past Mao Zedong on 12 September 1976

10

CANADA DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY 1939

Seven days after the declaration of war by Britain and France on Nazi Germany, Canada followed suit. Unlike in World War I where the British declaration of war automatically committed the Dominions - Canada, Newfoundland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa - to battle, the Canadian government reconvened parliament on 7 September to debate the matter as an equal - not junior - partner in Britain's war. The declaration was approved on 9 September and on the next day, Canada's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom presented the bill to King George VI for Royal Assent.

Governor General of Canada John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, addresses parliament on 14 September as representative of the monarch

11

THE DAY AMERICA WAS ATTACKED 2001

"The sights were mind-boggling. I thought for a second a movie was being made." Firefighter Mickey Kross was inside the World Trade Center's North Tower in New York City when it collapsed, yet even for those of us witnessing that indelible news footage on the other side of the world, his words resonate.

Just 46 minutes after American Airlines Flight 11 had taken off in Boston, five terrorists had taken over and flown the plane into the iconic building that would later tumble down around Kross. It was one of four hijackings that day, all of which hit their targets, except for one: United Flight 93's passengers reclaimed the plane and ensured it crashed out of harm's way in a Pennsylvanian field.

Everyone has an opinion about what caused 9/11, but more clear-cut are the effects. In the immediate sense, it resulted in the deaths of 2,996 people - the most ever in a single foreign attack on American soil. In the longer term, it forced the hand of American foreign policy. The War on Terror had begun; a war that would define the legacy of President George W Bush and have a lasting effect on the United States.

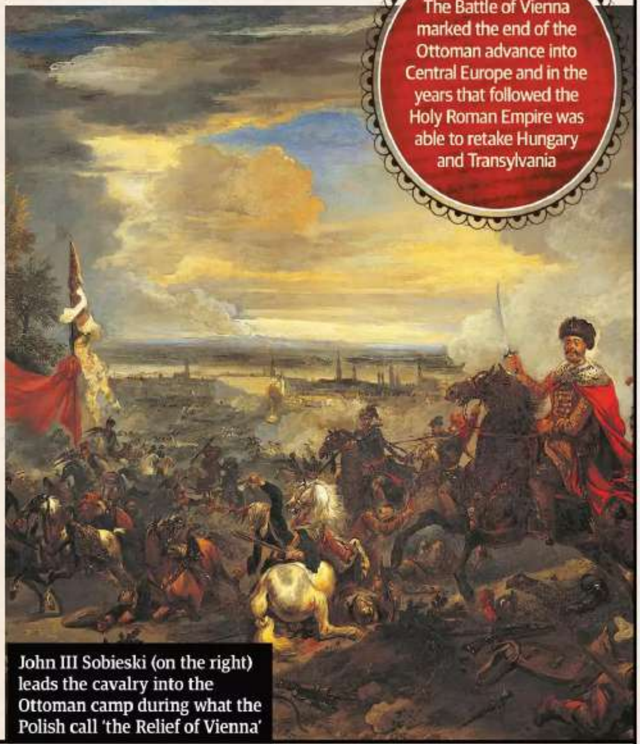
The moment the second plane hit the World Trade Center was witnessed live on news broadcasts around the world

12

BATTLE OF VIENNA 1683

The two-month siege of Vienna by the Ottoman Empire was relieved by King John III Sobieski of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Fighting with his Winged Hussars - so-called for their pennants of eagle feathers that fluttered behind them as they rode into battle - the king of Poland led a force of 18,000 horsemen in the largest cavalry charge in history, breaking the Ottoman will to fight after a long and difficult siege.

Three hours later the battle was won and the triumphant John III Sobieski paraphrased Julius Caesar: "Veni, vidi, Deus vicit" - "I came, I saw, God conquered."


John III Sobieski (on the right) leads the cavalry into the Ottoman camp during what the Polish call 'the Relief of Vienna'

The Battle of Vienna marked the end of the Ottoman advance into Central Europe and in the years that followed the Holy Roman Empire was able to retake Hungary and Transylvania

13

KHRUSHCHEV'S FUNERAL 1971

Pensioned off as First Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1964, Khrushchev was sidelined, under constant KGB monitoring and fell into deep depression before he died of a heart attack in a Moscow hospital. The former premier was denied a state funeral and his death went unreported until the hour of his wake.

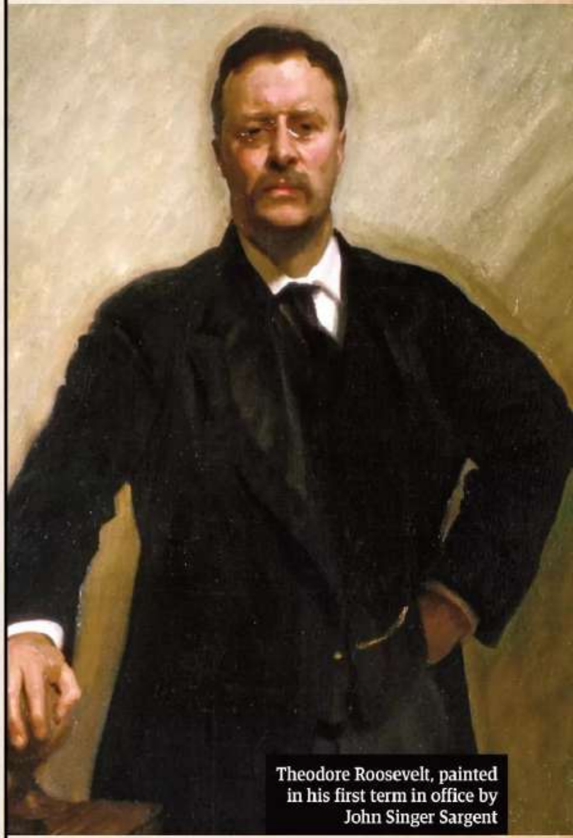
Stalin's eventual successor, Nikita Khrushchev had led the Soviet Union through some of the most dramatic chapters of the Cold War with the West, including the shooting down of the U-2 spy plane in 1960 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Despite his reputation for boorishness - he infamously banged his shoe on the desk for attention at the UN - Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin's police state, and his advocacy of "peaceful coexistence" with the West, represented turning points in the history of the Soviet Union.

Nikita Khrushchev on a visit to East Berlin in 1963, the year before his forced retirement

14

ROOSEVELT'S INAUGURATION

1901


Theodore Roosevelt, painted in his first term in office by John Singer Sargent

Fatally wounded by an assassin's bullet eight days earlier, President William McKinley died on the morning of 14 September 1901. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt took the Presidential Oath at a friend's home the same day. In public, Roosevelt was suitably solemn and promised to continue McKinley's policies, but in private he admitted: "It is a dreadful thing to come into the presidency in this way; but it would be a far worse thing to be morbid about it."

Over two energetic terms in office, Roosevelt expanded American influence on the world stage and fought for the supremacy of the government over private sector by regulating railroads, the quality of produce, and famously involving unions in negotiations with employers.

In 1912, while out of office and running for president with his own centre-left Progressive Party, Roosevelt was shot in chest while giving a campaign speech. The bullet was slowed by his 50-page speech and his metal glasses case, ensuring the "bull moose" didn't leave politics the way he came in, and he even finished his speech before seeking medical attention.

15

668

CONSTANS II MURDERED

The Byzantine emperor was clubbed to death in his bath, possibly with a soap dish wielded by his chamberlain. The assassination also killed the Eastern Roman Empire's last chance of recapturing the Middle East.

1440

SERIAL KILLER ARRESTED

Gilles de Rais, a knight who fought alongside Joan of Arc, was finally arrested, and he confessed to the sexual abuse and murder of between 80 and 200 children. He would be hanged a month later.

1616

FIRST FREE SCHOOL OPENS

In Frascati, near Rome, Spanish Catholic priest Joseph Calasanz opened the first free school in Europe. He would go on to found the Order of the Pious Schools (the Piarists), which continues today.

1830

LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY OPENS

The opening of the first locomotive-drawn railway to connect two major cities drew huge crowds. Tragedy struck when William Huskisson, MP for Liverpool, fell on the tracks and was killed by Stephenson's Rocket.

1835

HMS BEAGLE REACHES GALÁPAGOS

Three years and nine months into its five-year voyage, HMS Beagle dropped anchor in the Galápagos archipelago. Passenger Charles Darwin made one of his key evolutionary insights by studying the finches there.

1935

GERMANY ADOPTS SWASTIKA

The 2,000-year-old religious Hindu and Buddhist symbol had been in use by the Nazi Party since 1920, but in 1935, the swastika became the official national flag of the German Third Reich.

1959

KHRUSHCHEV VISITS USA

The first Soviet leader to visit the USA toured the IBM facility in California. Nikita Khrushchev wasn't impressed by the computers, but took the idea of the self-service cafeteria back to the USSR.

1968

ZOND 5 LAUNCHED

Two tortoises became the first animals to travel around the Moon aboard this Russian spacecraft, returning safely to Earth seven days later. The craft also took high-quality photos of Earth from 90,000 kilometres up.

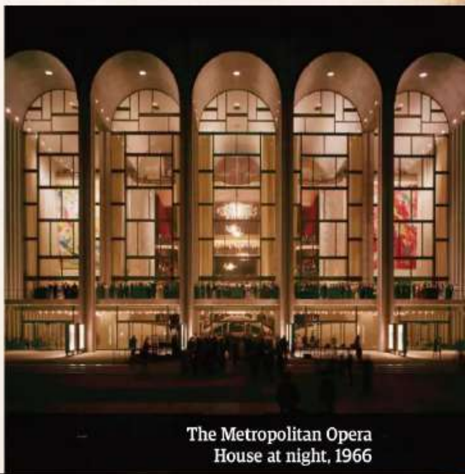
16

METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE OPENS IN NEW YORK 1966

Founded in 1880 and now the largest organisation dedicated to classical music in North America, the Metropolitan Opera moved into its present home at New York's Lincoln Centre in 1966 with a world premier of Samuel Barber's opera *Anthony and Cleopatra*.

The spectacular modernist Metropolitan Opera House was designed by architect Wallace Harrison, famous for his work on the art deco Rockefeller Center and the United Nations headquarters, and it was built between 1963 and 1966.

Over 50 years on, the Metropolitan Opera House is still regarded as one of the finest opera venues in the world, with carefully crafted acoustics designed specially for the medium.



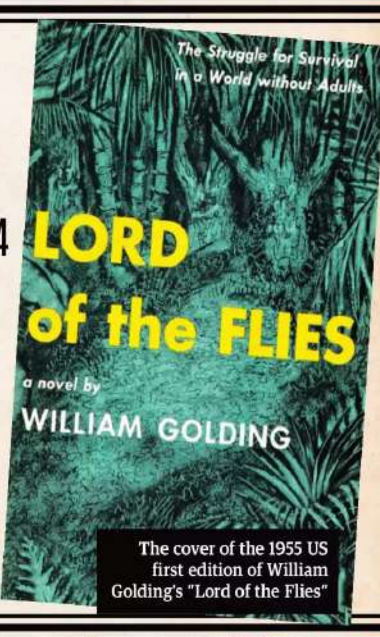
The Metropolitan Opera House at night, 1966

17

LORD OF THE FLIES PUBLISHED 1954

Finally published by Faber & Faber after at least ten rejections by rival publishers, William Golding's controversial coming-of-age novel *Lord of the Flies* sold so badly on its release (only 4,662 copies in the first year) that it fell out of print.

Critical acclaim grew slowly and by 1962 it had sold 65,000 copies. Now an undisputed classic, Golding was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1983 and *Lord of the Flies* has been recommended reading in schools across the English-speaking world ever since.

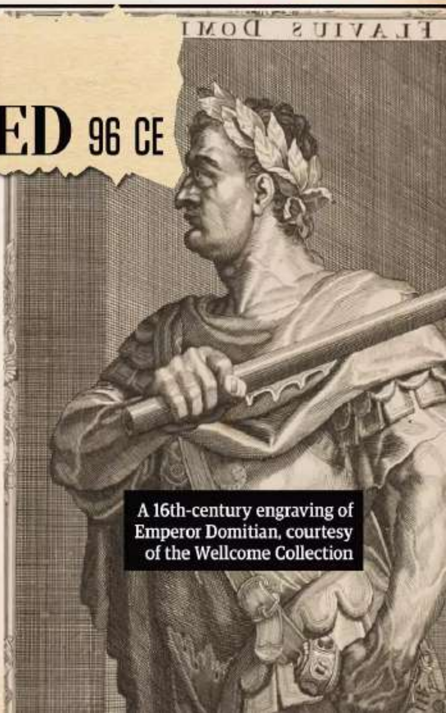


The cover of the 1955 US first edition of William Golding's "Lord of the Flies"

18

DOMITIAN ASSASSINATED 96 CE

Adored by the people and the army, Domitian was despised by the Roman aristocracy who considered him a tyrant, drawing power at the expense of the Senate. Deciding that his 15th year at the top would be his last, they enlisted a servant called Stephanus to finish him off. Claiming to have been injured, Stephanus wore a bandage for several days - however, on this day it concealed a dagger. He told his master that he had uncovered a murder plot and handed the emperor a document of evidence. As Domitian looked down at it, Stephanus plunged the dagger into his master's groin. With Domitian's death came the end of the Flavian dynasty.



A 16th-century engraving of Emperor Domitian, courtesy of the Wellcome Collection

19

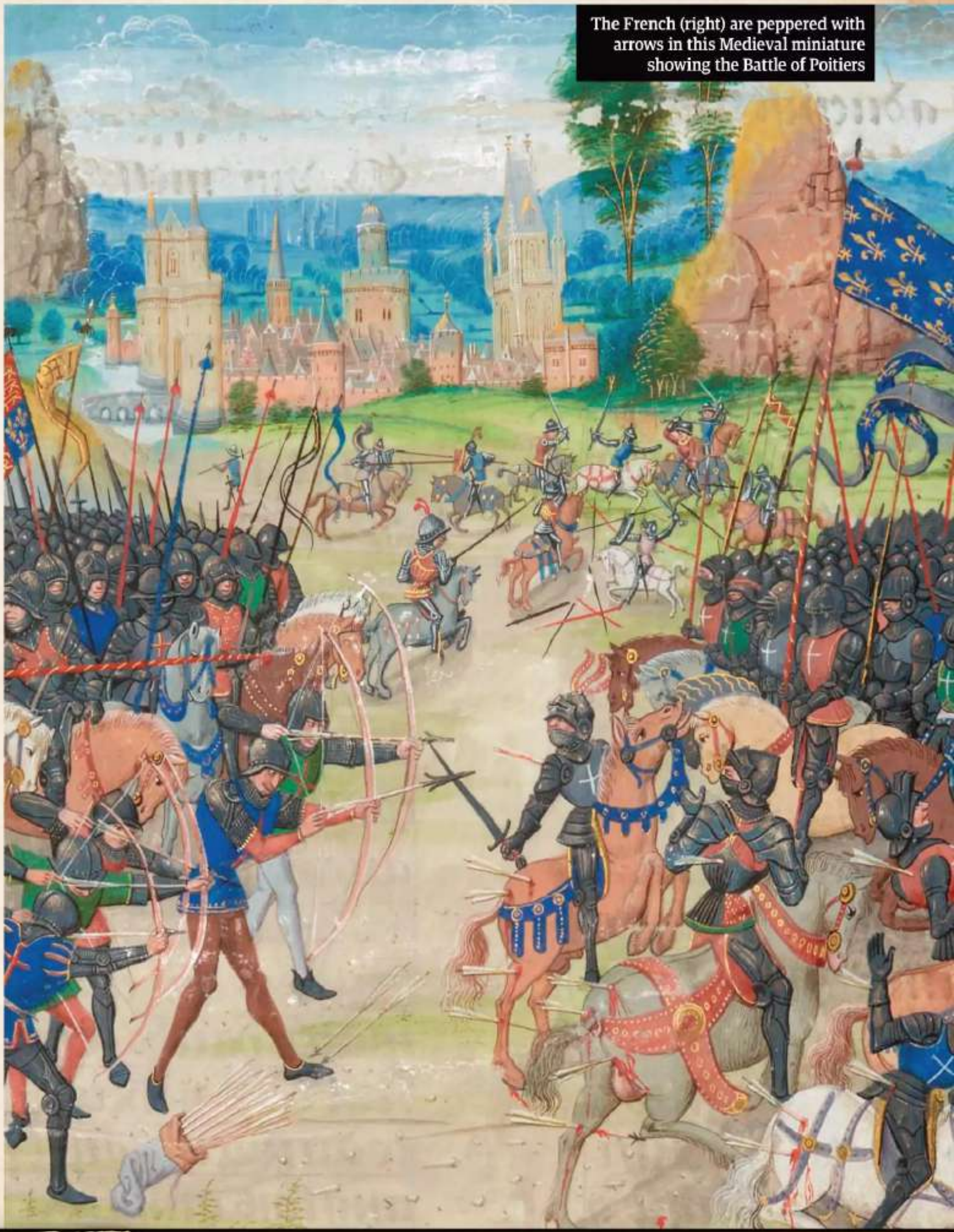
BATTLE OF POITIERS 1356

The eight-year truce in the Hundred Years' War ended in 1355 with neither England nor France able to agree a permanent peace. Almost immediately, the English attacked on three fronts with Edward the Black Prince attacking from the English-held duchy of Aquitaine into the heart of France. With only a small force at his disposal, the Black Prince avoided major towns and left a trail of death and destruction across the countryside before the French cut him off near Poitiers.

Though leery of facing the larger French army led by King John II, the Black Prince made sure to fight on terrain that suited his smaller numbers, prevented the English from being outflanked, and forced the French knights through a narrow bottleneck where they were savaged by the English archers.

When the duke of Orléans fled, taking his men with him, John II was forced to lead his remaining troops into the fray and hit the entire English force head-on. This daring gambit ended with the capture of the king and his son, Philip the Bold, and cut down the flower of the French nobility in a single action.

The kingdom of France was immediately plunged into chaos. John II was taken to England and forced to sign a humiliating treaty that ceded most of western France to England and agreed to pay England an extortionate ransom. His heir, Dauphin Charles, refused to honour this shameful document and the war continued.



The French (right) are peppered with arrows in this Medieval miniature showing the Battle of Poitiers

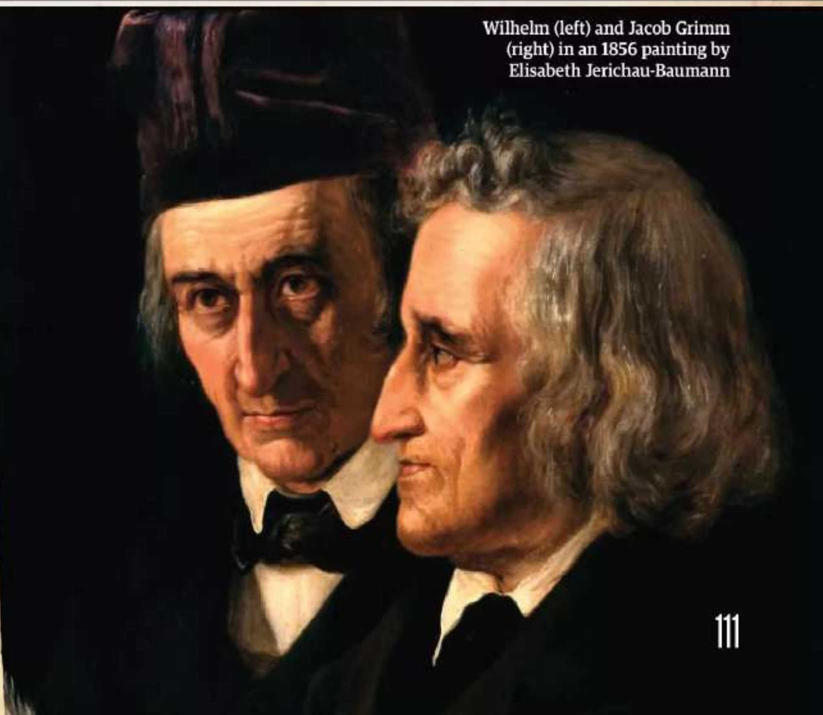
20

JACOB GRIMM DIES 1863

The elder of the 'Brothers Grimm' died in Berlin aged 78, still very much at the heart of German intellectual life.

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm collected and studied German folk tales, mythology and linguistics, with their best-known work being *Grimms' Fairy Tales* (originally published in 1812 as *Children's and Household Tales*).

Though their most obvious legacy can be seen in popularity of their particular retellings stories like *Cinderella* and *Snow White* - which they sanitised for 'modern' sensibilities by stripping away gruesome or sexual content - their work played an instrumental role in the growing sense of a single German people and culture.

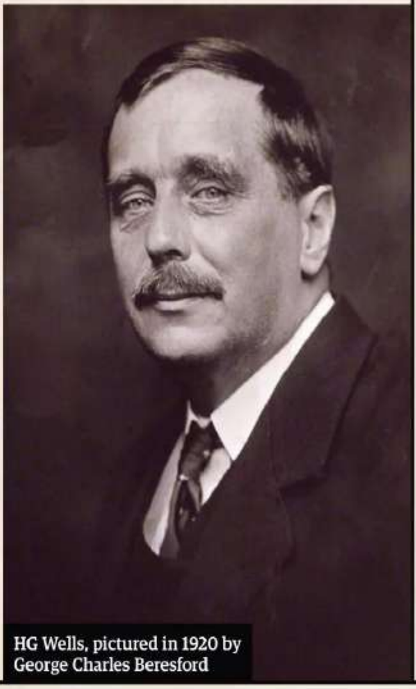


Wilhelm (left) and Jacob Grimm (right) in an 1856 painting by Elisabeth Jerichau-Baumann

21

HG WELLS BORN 1866

Born in Bromley, Kent, to shopkeeper and professional cricketer Joseph Wells, Herbert George Wells discovered a love for fiction while bedridden with a broken leg at the age of eight. Though now remembered as an author of science-fiction classics such as *The Time Machine*, *The Island of Dr Moreau* and *War of the Worlds*, during his life Wells found fame as a prominent and progressive social critic whose thinkings on race, class and republicanism were very much ahead of their time. However, his views on eugenics have fared less well.



HG Wells, pictured in 1920 by George Charles Beresford

22

WAGNER'S DAS RHEINGOLD PREMIERES IN MUNICH 1869

The first of Richard Wagner's four epic dramas (he preferred to call it a 'drama' as opposed to the Italian 'opera') that make up the *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, *Das Rheingold* was actually the last of the four to be written. However, Wagner steadfastly refused to let it be performed in public until he had completed the whole cycle.

In the end, Wagner's patron, King Ludwig II of Bavaria, ordered it to be staged. In response, the incensed Wagner tried to sabotage the premiere to the point where the prickly composer was completely barred from attending rehearsals of his own drama.

Emil Fischer as Wotan at the 1889 New York premiere of *Das Rheingold*

23

JUAN PERÓN OVERTHROWN 1955

Argentina's authoritarian Juan Perón was overthrown in a military coup known as the Revolución Libertadora ('Liberating Revolution'), and forced into exile.

After the death of the popular first lady, Eva 'Evita' Perón, in 1952, opposition to the president had hardened following his legalisation of divorce and prostitution, his relationship with a 13-year-old girl, and setting the mob onto opponents, from rival political parties to the Roman Catholic Church.

On 16 September 1955, a Catholic clique within the army and navy moved against their commander-in-chief, and he fled for Paraguay leaving his underage lover behind. General Eduardo Lonardi assumed office on 23 September to cries of "Christ is Victorious!"

Triumphant students in Buenos Aires mock a bust of Juan Perón in September 1955

24

F SCOTT FITZGERALD BORN 1896

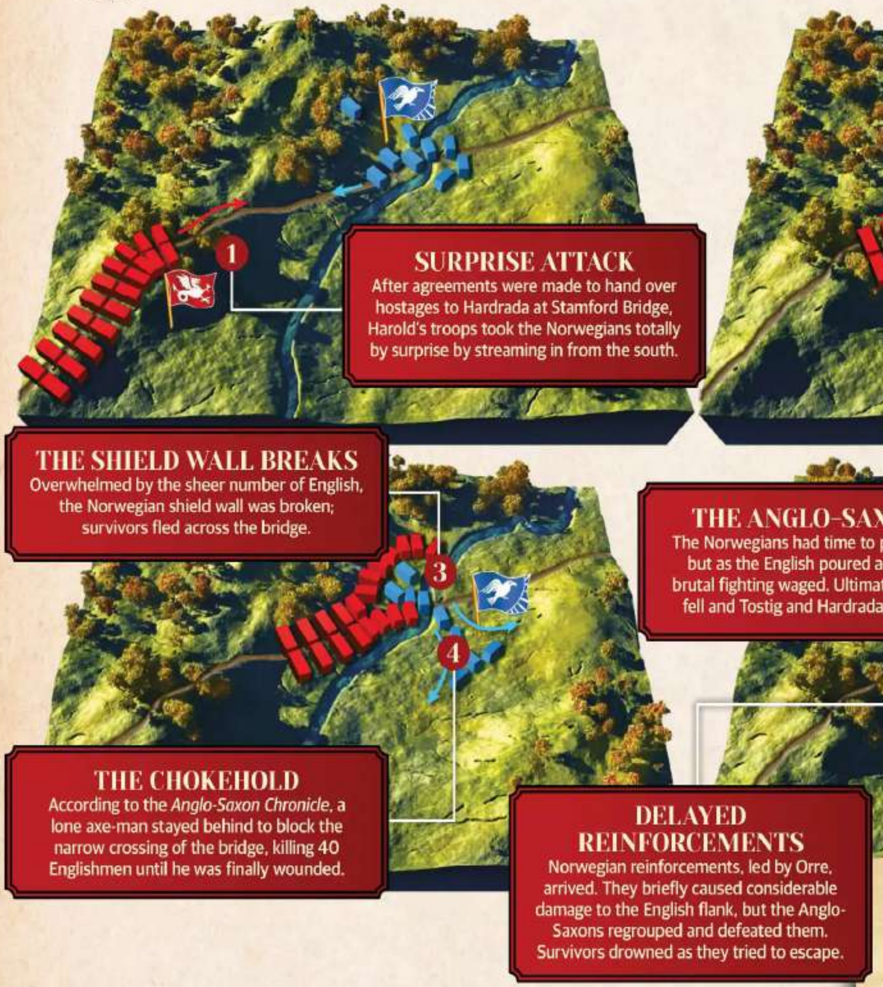
F Scott Fitzgerald pictured in 1921, a year after the release of *This Side of Paradise*

Born in Minnesota to an upper-middle-class family, Francis Scott Fitzgerald developed a love for literature early and saw his first work published aged 13 - a short story in his school newspaper.

Moving to New York, Fitzgerald became besotted by society beauty Zelda Sayre. Unable to prove he could make a living from writing, she called off the engagement until his semi-autobiographical debut novel changed his fortunes.

His novels of the 1920s - *This Side of Paradise*, *The Beautiful and Damned*, *The Great Gatsby* and *Tender is the Night* - are still widely regarded as the definitive literary documents of the glamour and tragedy of the United States in the Jazz Age.

25 BATTLE OF STAMFORD BRIDGE 1066



SURPRISE ATTACK
After agreements were made to hand over hostages to Hardrada at Stamford Bridge, Harold's troops took the Norwegians totally by surprise by streaming in from the south.

THE SHIELD WALL GOES UP
Rushing to put on their fighting gear, the invaders hastily put up a defensive shield wall on the west side of the bridge.

THE SHIELD WALL BREAKS
Overwhelmed by the sheer number of English, the Norwegian shield wall was broken; survivors fled across the bridge.

THE CHOKEHOLD
According to the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, a lone axe-man stayed behind to block the narrow crossing of the bridge, killing 40 Englishmen until he was finally wounded.

THE ANGLO-SAXON WAVE
The Norwegians had time to put up a shield wall but as the English poured across the bridge, brutal fighting waged. Ultimately, the shield wall fell and Tostig and Hardrada joined the fallen.

DELAYED REINFORCEMENTS
Norwegian reinforcements, led by Orre, arrived. They briefly caused considerable damage to the English flank, but the Anglo-Saxons regrouped and defeated them. Survivors drowned as they tried to escape.

When Edward the Confessor died in early 1066, no one knew what the future of England held. The king hadn't left an heir and so instead he named Harold Godwinson as the successor to the crown. However, this could be where the problems began - some believe he had already promised the throne to a man across the Channel: William, Duke of Normandy.

With the monarch's body safely buried in Westminster Cathedral, the race for the throne was on. But Harold and William weren't the only two contenders. Harald Hardrada, king of Norway, sailed from Scandinavia, landing in northern England with 300 ships filled to the brim with as many as 11,000 Vikings. In true Viking spirit, he wouldn't go down without a fight.

What poor Harold Godwinson hadn't seen coming was a betrayal from a family member. His brother, Tostig, had recruited men to serve under the Norse banner. Harald's Vikings and Tostig's forces took the city of York, leaving Harold with a difficult choice - should he head north to deal with the Viking problem, or stick around in the south waiting for the duke of Normandy to cross the Channel?

Wasting no time, Harold took his men north to York, covering a staggering 300 kilometres in four days. The Norwegian invader hadn't expected this and on 25 September he was caught by surprise. Many of the Vikings had left their armour in their ships, not expecting an English army to run towards them at Stamford Bridge and slaughter them where they stood.

The battle had the outcome Harold needed - Harald and Tostig were both killed, negating one of the threats to the English crown. Out of the 300 ships that had carried the Vikings to England, only 24 were needed to take the survivors back. But more trouble was brewing and just three days later, William arrived on the south coast, looking for trouble.

NORWEGIANS	VS	SAXONS
· COMMANDERS: Harald Hardrada, Tostig Godwinson		**· COMMANDER:** Harold Godwinson
· TROOPS: Approx 9,000, 3,000 of whom arrived late		**· TROOPS:** Approx 15,000, significantly more than the Norse forces
· KEY UNIT: Axe-men		**· KEY UNIT:** The professional housecarls
· STRENGTHS: An almost impenetrable shield wall		**· STRENGTHS:** The element of surprise
· WEAKNESSES: Unprepared, many men were without armour		**· WEAKNESSES:** Forced to cross the narrow choke-point of the bridge
· CASUALTIES AND LOSSES: Approx 6,000		**· CASUALTIES AND LOSSES:** Approx 5,000

26

MEUSE-ARGONNE OFFENSIVE BEGINS 1918

23rd US Infantry machine gun crew in action during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive

The largest campaign in American military history, involving 1.2 million US soldiers, the Meuse-Argonne Offensive was part of the larger Hundred Days Offensive that brought the First World War to an end.

General John J Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), had shrugged off British and French advice, believing that 'Old World' attitudes had led to the stalemate on the Western Front, and 'New World' gumption would see the battle won.

Fatally, Pershing believed the Europeans were too reliant on artillery and preferred his boys to go in without an opening barrage in case they lost the element of surprise.

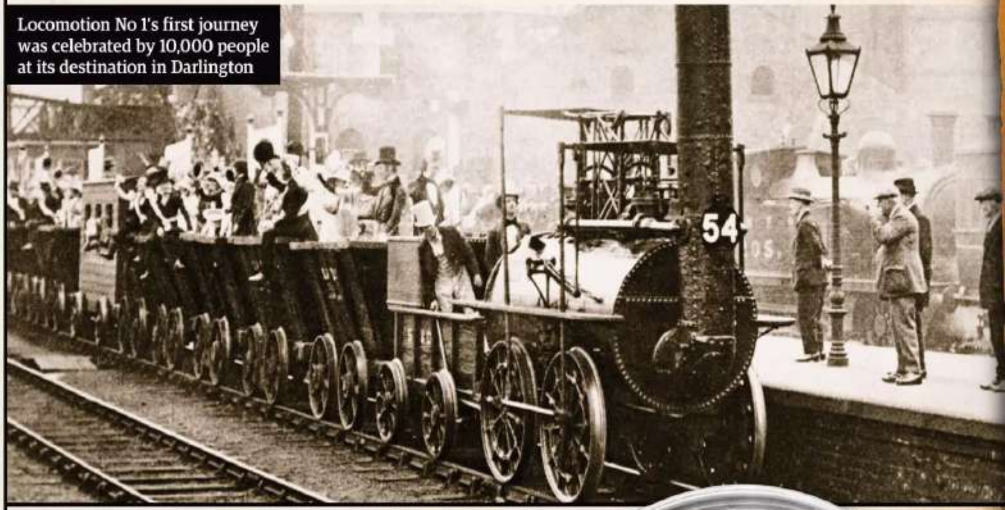
Through this consequence of hubris at the highest level and inexperience at the lowest, the AEF was thrown into the single deadliest US offensive in history, and the bloody learning curve that the French and the British had spent four years climbing had to be traversed by the Americans in a matter of months.

War-weary they may have been, but the 450,000 or so German soldiers who faced nearly three times their number made their enemy pay dearly for Pershing's mistakes. At the end of this fateful offensive, 26,277 Americans had been killed and 95,786 wounded, compared to 28,000 German dead and 42,000 wounded.

27

FIRST PUBLIC STEAM TRAIN 1825

The Stockton and Darlington Railway became the world's first-ever public railway to run a steam train. While it was hauled by George Stephenson's Locomotion No 1, the original plan had been to use horse traction until Stephenson pointed out that a steam locomotive would be able to pull 50 times more weight. As the train ran for the first time, it carried 450 people seated in wagons at a speed of 24 kilometres per hour.



Locomotion No 1's first journey was celebrated by 10,000 people at its destination in Darlington

28

DISCOVERY OF PENICILLIN 1928

Fleming's discovery was accidental but his keen attention to his experiments meant that he noticed the action of the mould and was able to create a medicine from the microbe

As the world plunged into the Great War, Alexander Fleming was starting his work in wound research at a laboratory in Boulogne. He was frustrated that antiseptics couldn't prevent gangrene in seriously injured soldiers as shrapnel forced clothing and debris deep into the tissue that antiseptics couldn't penetrate. Seeing soldiers suffer and die from septicaemia, tetanus and gangrene ignited his passion on leukocytes and antisepsis, and he started investigating staphylococcus, a bacteria that caused boils and systemic infections that were fatal for those with weak immune systems.

After growing the bacteria on Petri dishes, Fleming left for a vacation and had forgotten to incubate the sample. When he returned from France, the bacteria had grown as usual but some areas had been destroyed around mould spores that had accidentally been introduced into the dish. The mould thrived in the room-temperature environment but would have been killed by the higher temperatures of an incubator, so the action of the microorganisms had never been observed before. He identified the mould as belonging to a family known as Penicillium. It wasn't until World War II that Howard Florey and Ernst Chain managed to properly isolate and concentrate the mould into a usable mass-produced antibiotic, but all three men won the Nobel Prize in 1945 for the discovery and development.

It has been estimated that without the invention of this incredible drug, 75 per cent of people alive today wouldn't be here, because their parents, grandparents or great-grandparents would have died from an infection at some point in their lives.

29

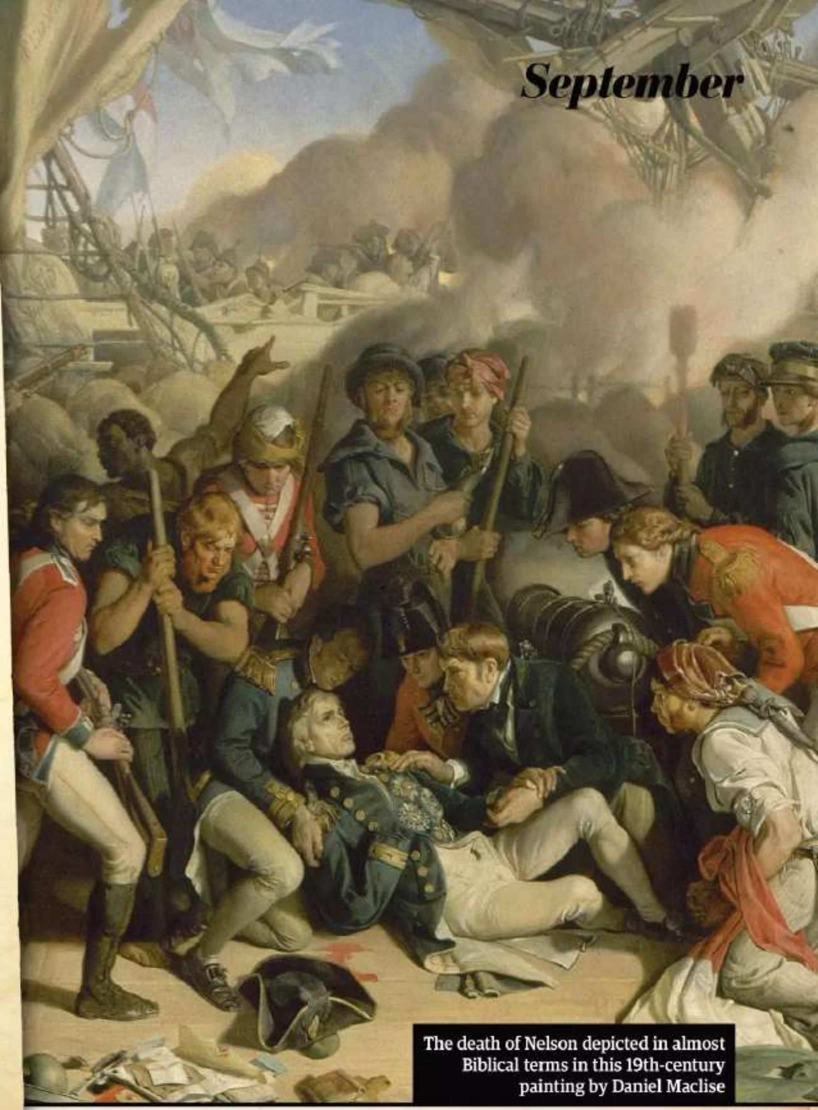
NELSON BORN 1758

Born to a comfortable Norfolk family, Horatio Nelson joined the Royal Navy and rose quickly through the ranks thanks to the influence of his prominent uncle, Maurice Suckling. Nelson served with distinction in the American War of Independence, where he gained his first command in 1781 as master and commander of HMS Badger. He struggled in peacetime with poor health before the outbreak of the French Revolutionary Wars called him back to the colours.

Not just a great tactician, Nelson was a charismatic and conscientious leader whose personal bond with not just his men, but his superiors, was dubbed the 'Nelson touch'. Displaying incredible personal gallantry as well as expert command, Nelson lost his right eye directing the naval bombardment of the French garrison at Corsica, and he lost his right arm personally leading an amphibious assault on Tenerife.

The offensive that earned Nelson fame was the Battle of the Nile. After chasing Napoleon's fleet for two months, Nelson finally caught them anchored at Aboukir Bay, north of Alexandria, and passed on both sides of the French fleet, cutting off their escape and pummelling them in the crossfire. During the battle, a splinter struck Nelson above his right eye, temporarily blinding him completely before his wound was stitched. He returned to the deck to oversee his magnificent victory.

True to form, Nelson's finest hour would see him most grievously wounded. As the Battle of Trafalgar saw the threat of the combined Franco-Spanish fleet finally grounded, Nelson was shot in the back by a marksman, and died soon afterward. He is buried beneath Saint Paul's Cathedral.



The death of Nelson depicted in almost Biblical terms in this 19th-century painting by Daniel Maclise

30

SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT BECOMES OTTOMAN SULTAN 1520

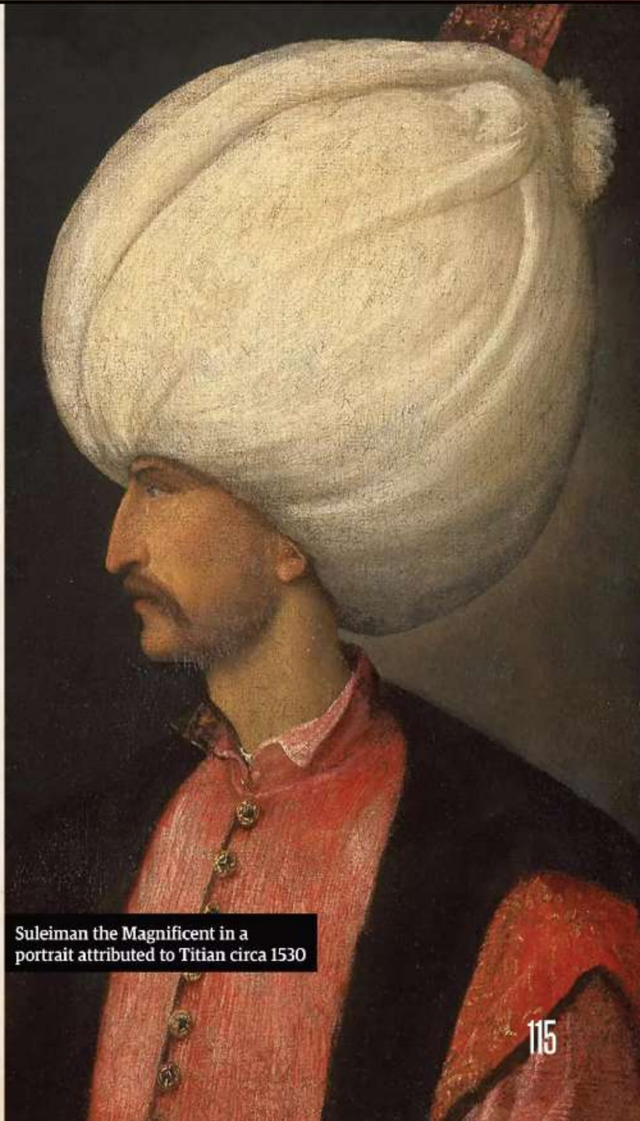
At the age of 25, Suleiman succeeded Selim I as the tenth Ottoman sultan. A highly educated young man who served as governor of some of his father's most prosperous provinces, Suleiman was born to rule.

Almost immediately, Suleiman began by making good on his dynasty's grandest ambitions: he took Belgrade, the prize that had eluded Mehmed the Conqueror, the sultan who had first delivered Constantinople into Ottoman hands. With Belgrade fallen, the kingdom of Hungary was vulnerable and Suleiman added Transylvania and the city of Buda to the empire.

In the Mediterranean he drove the Knights Hospitaller from Rhodes and in the Middle East he drove the Persians from parts of Azerbaijan and Georgia, and returned Baghdad and Mesopotamia to Ottoman rule. In East Africa, Suleiman took Aden as his base from which to launch naval raids against Portuguese possessions in India, while in North Africa the Barbary States of Tripolitania, Tunisia and Algeria were annexed.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to his reputation is that the sobriquet 'the Magnificent' was given to him by chroniclers in the Christian west - arguably some of his most bitter enemies - and not Muslim writers. Within his empire, he is remembered as Suleiman the Lawgiver for compiling the judgements of his predecessors into a single cohesive legal code that endured for 300 years.

Further burnishing his domestic reputation, Suleiman championed the expansion of education and sponsored grand building projects to make Constantinople the centre of the Islamic world and to restore Jerusalem's Dome on the Rock.



Suleiman the Magnificent in a portrait attributed to Titian circa 1530

OCTOBER

01 BATTLE OF GAUGAMELA 331 BCE

After soundly defeating the Persians at Issus in 333 BCE, Alexander the Great's conquests led him to the Mediterranean coast to Egypt and Syria. As he conquered his way around the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, Alexander once again turned his sights to toppling his primary enemy, the mighty Persian Empire. However, Darius III, king of Persia, had not been idle for the last two years; he had recruited men from all around his empire to form an army big enough to halt once and for all the might of the unconquered king.

Despite commanding a large force, Darius, having felt the sting of Alexander's army once before, was eager to avoid conflict. He offered to cede half the Persian Empire to Alexander to halt his invasion but despite the protests of his generals, Alexander flatly refused the offer. With no options left open to him, Darius prepared his forces for battle. Sources differ in regard to the number of men at Darius' disposal, ranging from 50,000 to ancient estimates of 1 million, but it is clear that the Persian king's forces greatly outnumbered Alexander's and this, he decided, would be his strength.

Darius chose a flat, open, treeless plain, thereby avoiding the problem he suffered at Issus where the narrow battlefield had limited the deployment of his large forces. With 200 scythed chariots and 15 war elephants at his command, a flat terrain was paramount, and so he sent his soldiers to flatten the earth. In the dry autumn heat, the field was a vast expanse of flat empty earth with no hills, trees or rivers to use as cover.

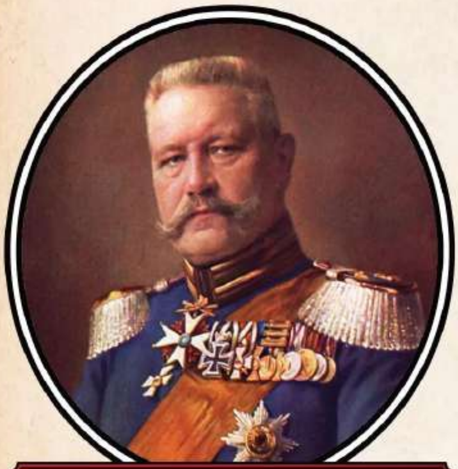
Alexander had already taken several Persian cavalrymen prisoner and learned of Darius' location and tactics. He marched his army to roughly 11 kilometres away from the Persians and set up camp for the night. On the eve of the battle, Alexander was urged by his generals to take advantage of the sleeping Persian forces with a surprise attack in the dead of night. Alexander, ever confident, proclaimed he would not steal his victory and instead commanded his army to rest all night. This was not so for Darius' forces, however, as they were awake, armed and ready to meet the 'surprise' attack that never came.

With his men well rested, Alexander led his forces toward the Persians on the morning of 1 October. Across the flat plain, the imposing Persian army could be seen in all their majesty, the gleaming scythed chariots before them, the massive numbers of cavalry reaching back as far as the eye could see and, in the centre, Darius himself, surrounded by the fabled Immortals and 15 mighty war elephants. But Alexander's troops, although fewer in number than the Persian's, were elite fighters led by a man who was still unbeaten on the battlefield. Utilising a unique strategy, Alexander's forces were able to create a gap in the enemy line and launch a devastating attack into the weakened Persian centre. When Darius realised what had happened he broke away from the battle and fled for his life.

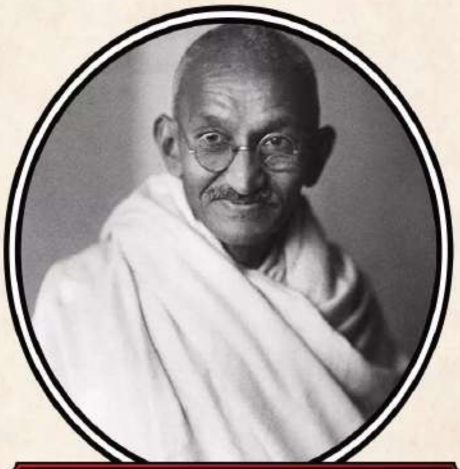
Alexander aimed to capture Darius, but this was denied him when Darius was unexpectedly killed by his own commander and cousin, Bessus, who coveted his seat of power. The death marked the end of the Persian Empire and crowned Alexander as the king of Asia. His empire continued to expand until his death eight years later. To this day, Alexander the Great remains the measure to which other military leaders compare themselves, and his success at the battle of Gaugamela is heralded as one of his finest victories.

Darius III had over 500,000 and 15 war elephants on his side according to some witness accounts

02 BORN ON THIS DAY



PAUL VON HINDENBURG
1847



MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI 1869

JULIUS HENRY MARX
1890

Born in Posen, Prussia, which is now the city of Poznań in Poland, Paul von Hindenburg enjoyed an honourable military career, serving in the Austro-Prussian War in 1866 and the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. He ended his military career in 1911 but was recalled to duty once more at the outbreak of World War I.

Hindenburg's reputation grew and a political career followed as he was elected president of Germany in 1925, but he died shortly after naming Adolf Hitler as chancellor in 1933, which set the groundwork for the utter destruction of Germany and World War II.

An icon for peace, Gandhi was the primary leader of India's independence movement as well as the creator of a form of nonviolent civil disobedience that greatly influenced the world.

He lived a simple life devoted to prayer, fasting and meditation, and in later life he became known as Mahatma, which means great soul. He inspired future human rights movements around the world, including Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King Jr. Many today consider Gandhi to be the father of India as a result of his role in achieving Indian independence from Britain.

Probably better known as Groucho Marx, the comedian, actor, singer and writer spent almost his entire lifetime making people laugh with his razor-sharp wit.

In 1914, the Marx Brothers had a career break after making funny quips about an audience in Texas. They had a number of Broadway hits, beginning with *I'll Say She Is* in 1294, followed by *The Cocoanuts* and *Animal Crackers*. In 1935, the brothers created one of their most successful movies, *A Night At The Opera*. When the Marx brothers split up, Groucho enjoyed solo success on radio and television for many years.

03

BORIS III ASCENDS THE THRONE 1918

When Ferdinand I of Bulgaria abdicated his throne in 1918 after his country's defeat in World War I – it was the nation's second major defeat in five years after the failure of the Second Balkan War in 1913 – his son Boris succeeded him as tsar. Boris is remembered today for refusing to bow down to pressure from Adolf Hitler to deport Jews from Bulgaria during World War II and in total he managed to save saved 50,000 lives. He died in 1943, aged 49, supposedly from heart failure, although there were suspicions that he was actually poisoned.

There were several attempts made on Boris' life in his early years of rule, but he survived

04

THE SOVIET UNION LAUNCHES SPUTNIK 1957

The Soviet Union kickstarted the Space Race by launching Sputnik 1, the first artificial satellite put into low orbit, and began transmitting radio messages back to Earth. Although the device had no sensors aboard, scientists were able to gain valuable data by tracking its passage through the upper atmosphere. The success of the project alarmed the United States so much that it raced to catch up with its own space program.

05 BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S US RELEASE 1961

Loosely based on a novel by Truman Capote, directed by Blake Edwards and written by George Axelrod, *Breakfast at Tiffany's* is a truly iconic film that has been deemed to be "culturally, historically and aesthetically significant" by the United States library of Congress.

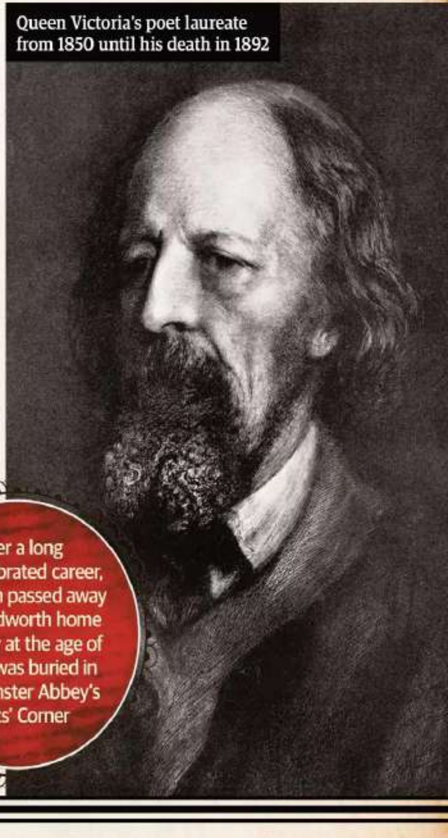
The sophisticated comedy stars Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard, and is possibly one of Hepburn's most memorable roles. It won two Academy Awards: one for Best Original Score and the other for Best Original Song for *Moon River*. It was also nominated for a number of other Academy Awards including Best Actress for Hepburn's portrayal of Holly Golightly.

Audrey Hepburn's most memorable role was as Holly Golightly

06 LORD TENNYSON DIES 1892

"'Tis better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all." It was this iconic line from 'In Memoriam' that cemented his reputation as one of the greatest poets of the Victorian era.

Tennyson was Queen Victoria's poet laureate from 1850 until his death in 1892. He was one of the true literary greats, and although had a hard beginning went on to write truly iconic pieces that are still widely studied today. His work includes 'In Memoriam', 'The Charge of the Light Brigade' and 'Idylls of the King'. Queen Victoria is said to have found comfort in 'In Memoriam' following the death of Prince Albert in 1861.



Queen Victoria's poet laureate from 1850 until his death in 1892

After a long and celebrated career, Tennyson passed away at his Aldworth home in Surrey at the age of 83. He was buried in Westminster Abbey's Poets' Corner

07 VLADIMIR PUTIN BORN 1952

The current president of Russia was born in Leningrad, and after graduating from Leningrad State University with a degree in Law, Putin began his career in the KGB as an intelligence officer. He was stationed in East Germany until 1990, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. After the fall of communism in 1991 he became involved in political affairs, and in 1998 he was made deputy head of management under Boris Yeltsin's presidential administration. Putin was then promoted to head of the Federal Security Service and, in August 1999, Yeltsin dismissed his prime minister, Sergey Stepashin, and selected Putin to take on the role. When Yeltsin resigned in 1999, he appointed Putin as the acting president until official elections were held. Putin was elected to his first term with 53 per cent of the vote in March 2000, and in March 2018 Vladimir Putin was re-elected for the fourth time.

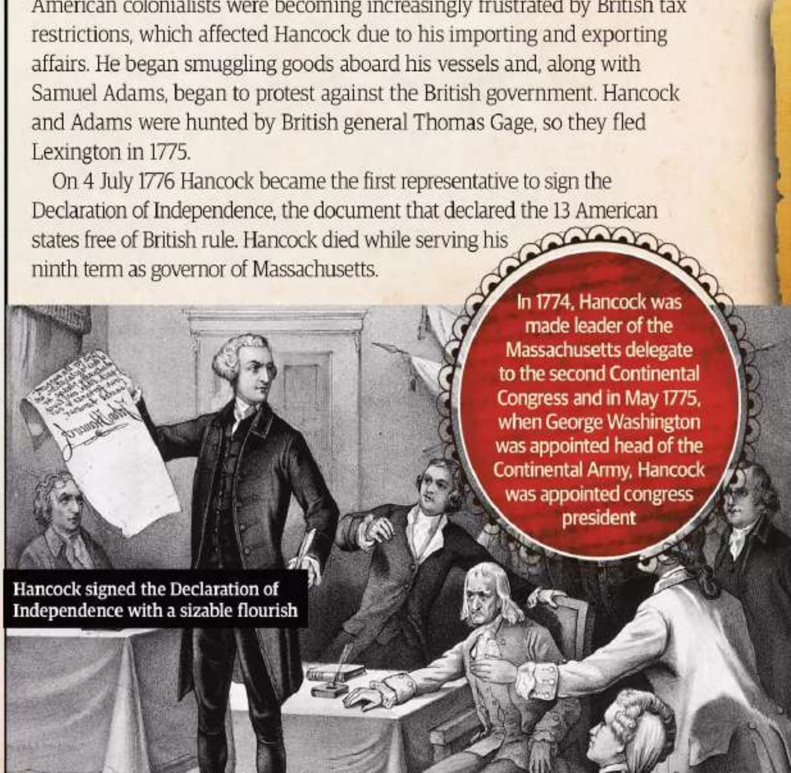
Putin reportedly won the 2018 election with 75 per cent of the vote

08 JOHN HANCOCK DIES 1793

Somewhat unknown now, John Hancock played a major role in the American Revolution. He lived a lavish lifestyle after inheriting a family business, and his beginnings in politics came at a time when American colonialists were becoming increasingly frustrated by British tax restrictions, which affected Hancock due to his importing and exporting affairs. He began smuggling goods aboard his vessels and, along with Samuel Adams, began to protest against the British government. Hancock and Adams were hunted by British general Thomas Gage, so they fled Lexington in 1775.

On 4 July 1776 Hancock became the first representative to sign the Declaration of Independence, the document that declared the 13 American states free of British rule. Hancock died while serving his ninth term as governor of Massachusetts.

In 1774, Hancock was made leader of the Massachusetts delegate to the second Continental Congress and in May 1775, when George Washington was appointed head of the Continental Army, Hancock was appointed congress president

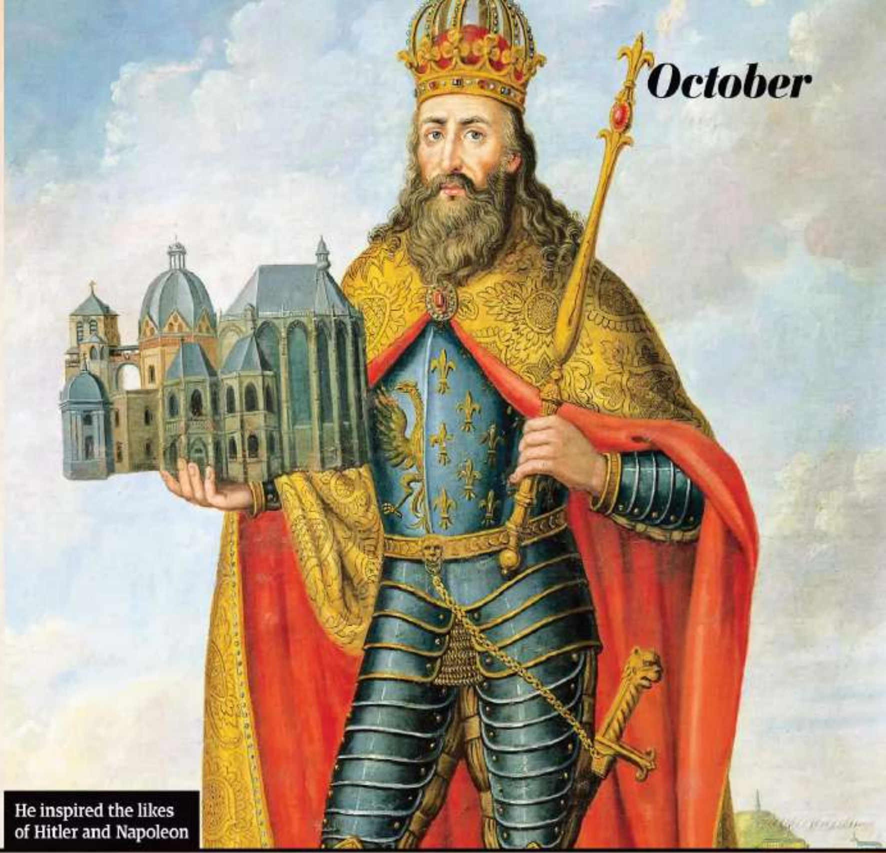


Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence with a sizable flourish

09

CHARLEMAGNE CROWNED KING OF THE FRANKS 771

The father of Europe to some, Charlemagne became king of the Franks, a Germanic tribe in Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and western Germany. He wanted to unite all Germanic peoples into one kingdom, and convert his subjects to Christianity. When he died in 814, his empire enveloped much of Western Europe and was responsible for the survival of Christianity in the West. It is said that Charlemagne was actually an inspiration for leaders like Napoleon Bonaparte and Adolf Hitler, who both also had visions of ruling a unified Europe.



He inspired the likes of Hitler and Napoleon

The members of the WSPU weren't afraid of the consequences of their protests

10 WSPU FOUNDED 1903

As the suffrage movement grew in Edwardian Britain, Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in Manchester in 1903. It was to be the militant wing of the movement and fought for votes for women.

Since 1880, English women had been granted the ability to vote in local elections on school boards, but they were still unable to achieve full political equality. The WSPU became frustrated by both the Liberal and Conservative political parties who just passed the issue back and forth. As a result, the group became increasingly aggressive and organised marches and outdoor demonstrations, interrupted political meetings, chained themselves to railings outside of Parliament, and had battles with the police. Its reputation was growing, but most held a negative view of it. The woman involved became known as 'suffragettes', which was embraced by the Union, which named its journal *The Suffragette*.

In 1908, WSPU members took their protesting to a more serious level and began partaking in activities like pouring acid in mailboxes, breaking windows, defacing artwork in the National Gallery and tearing up golf courses. In 1913, Emily Davison moved onto the racetrack in front of a racehorse owned by King George V at the Epsom Derby. She gave her life in order to make a statement about wealth and power.

Between 1908 and 1914, over 1,000 suffragettes, including Emmeline and Christabel Pankhurst, were imprisoned. When arrested, many drew additional public attention by staging hunger strikes, and in 1913 the British government passed the Prisoners' Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health Act. This meant that prison officials were allowed to discharge the women when they were weak and then re-arrest them as soon as they recovered. The act quickly became known as the Cat and Mouse Act because it seemed to cruelly mimic the way a cat toys with its prey.

In 1914, the union changed its focus and put effort into supporting the British war effort in World War I. The WSPU slowly withdrew from the limelight during the war and ended in 1917. In 1918, to recognise women's war work, the British government granted suffrage to women over age 30.

11 MARRIED ON THIS DAY

BILL CLINTON & HILLARY RODHAM
1975

LOUIS ARMSTRONG & LUCILLE WILSON
1942

FIDEL CASTRO & MIRTA DIAZ-BALART
1948

Hillary and Bill Clinton got married in the living room of their home, where a local Methodist minister and his wife officiated the ceremony. It was witnessed by 15 of their closest friends and family. The then-power couple had a reception in their backyard where a few hundred friends gathered to celebrate.

Their relationship wasn't always plain sailing though; during the 42nd president of the United States' second term in office, he was impeached for obstruction of justice in connection with a sexual relationship he had with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Louis Armstrong was married for the fourth and final time to Lucille Wilson who was a performer at the Cotton Club, and they remained together until his death on 7 July 1971. The wedding took place in St Louis, Missouri. During their marriage, Lucille persuaded Armstrong to buy a house in Queens, New York, and on 13 October 1943 they moved in. When Louis died in 1971, Lucille continued to live there until her death in 1983. When Lucille passed away, she left the house to the city of New York and everything else was bequeathed to the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation.

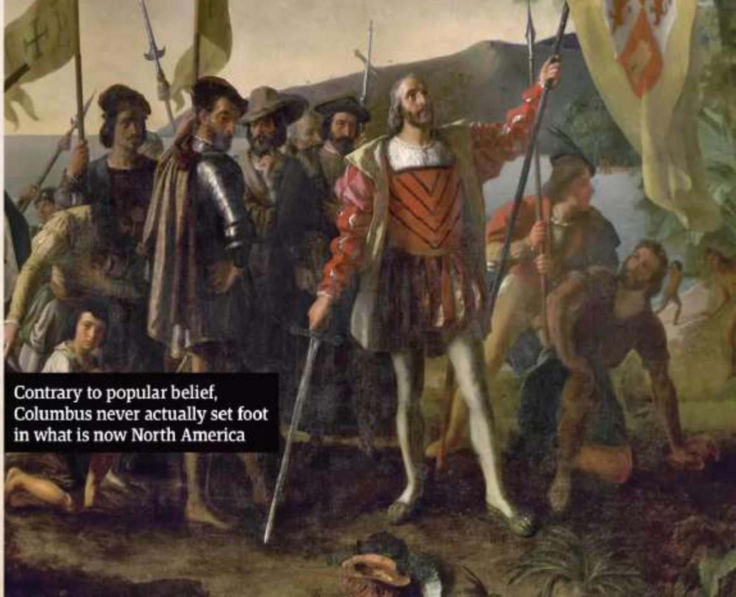
Fidel Castro married his first wife, Mirta Díaz-Balart, in October 1948. They'd met when they were both students at the University of Havana and despite Mirta's family being against the match as they were supporters of Fulgencio Battista, the couple wed and had a son named Fidel Ángel Castro Díaz-Balart, otherwise known as Fidelito, a year later. However, Mirta and Castro divorced in 1955 and she moved to Spain. Their son committed suicide in 2018, just over a year after his father's death. While Castro never married again, Mirta did in 1956 to Emilio Núñez Blanco, the son of a former Cuban ambassador to the UN.

12 CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS DISCOVERS THE AMERICAS 1492

Interestingly, Christopher Columbus is often cited as the man who first set eyes on American soil, but that's only a half-truth. While the Genoan-born explorer never set foot in North America, his four famous voyages did take him to the Caribbean and parts of South America. It was in 1492, as captain of the Santa Maria, that Columbus and two other ships set out to discover a new route to the East Indies in Asia and its lucrative trade routes. What he and his fellow sailors discovered was, in fact, one of the islands in the Bahamas.

Having sailed for three months from the Spanish port of Palos de la Frontera, Columbus made landfall on one of the islands and named it San Salvador (Holy Saviour). He named the indigenous people 'indios' (or 'indians', as he still believed he'd landed in the Indies), noting their friendliness upon his arrival.

He eventually learned that these peaceable people had fought off attempts from other islands to enslave them. In a cruel twist of fate - and a precursor to the booming slave trade these islands would eventually support - Columbus remarked in his private journal, "I could conquer the whole of them with 50 men, and govern them as I pleased."

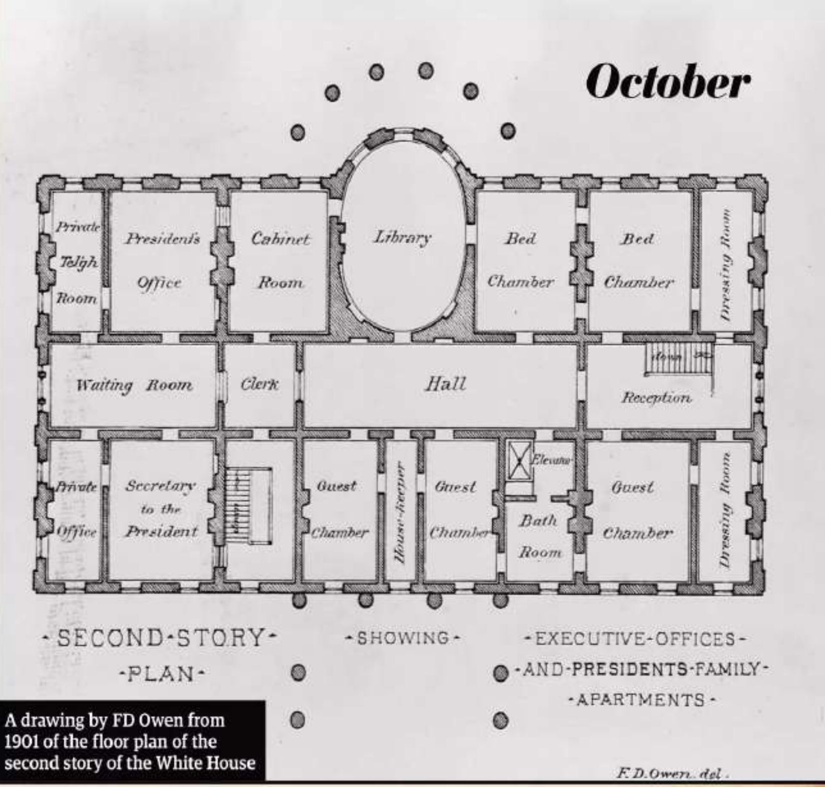


Contrary to popular belief, Columbus never actually set foot in what is now North America

13 CORNERSTONES OF THE WHITE HOUSE LAID 1792

The cornerstone was laid for a presidential residence in the newly designated capital city of Washington. John Adams was the first president to live in the mansion in 1800 and it soon became known as the White House as its grey-white bricks stood out starkly against the more common red-brick buildings in the area.

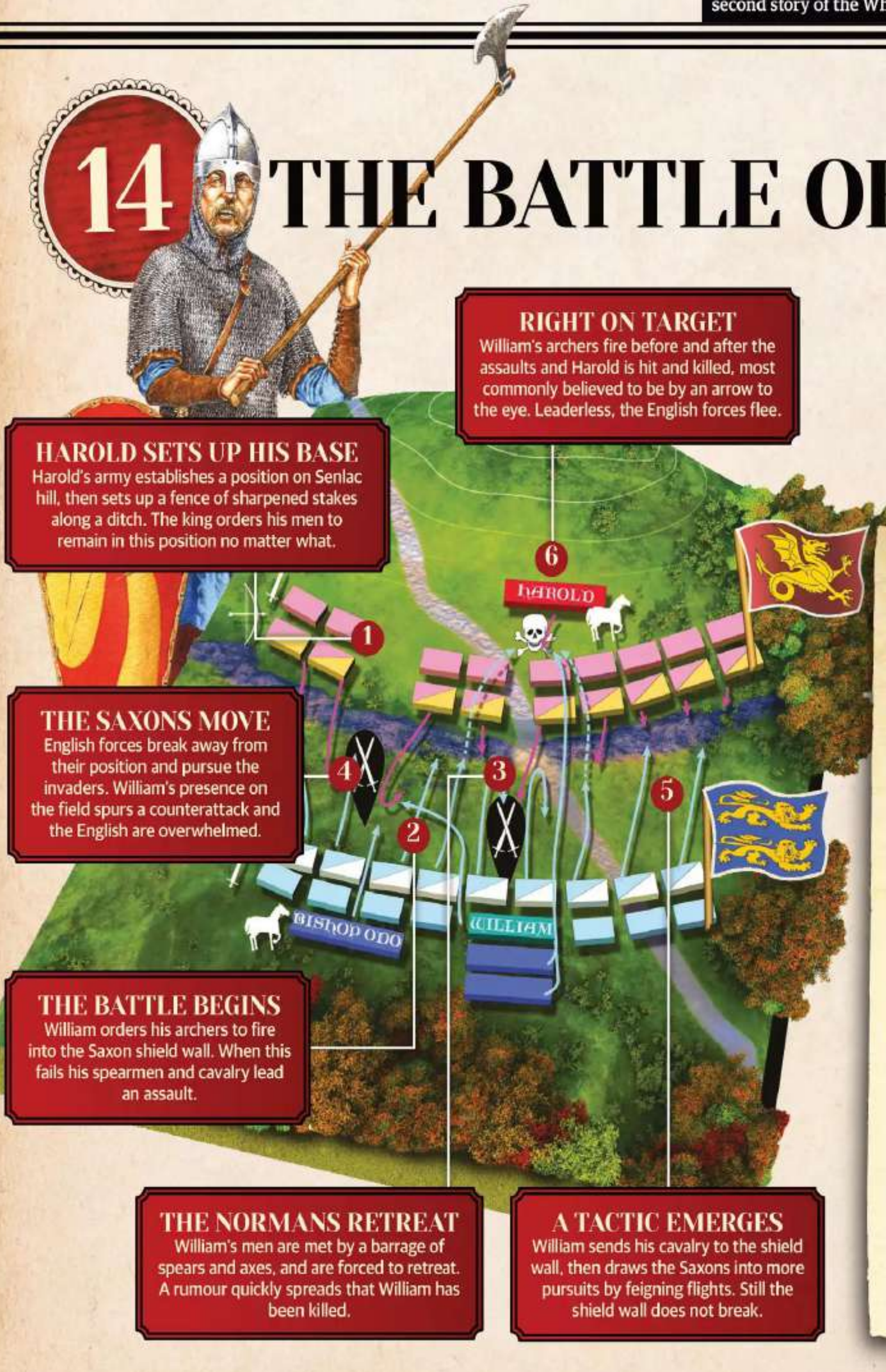
The city of Washington was created from scratch to replace Philadelphia as the nation's capital. Maryland and Virginia gave up land to form the District of Columbia and French architect Charles L'Enfant designed the city of Washington's quirky layout, full of circles, crisscross avenues and parks in 1771. In 1792, work began on the White House by Irish-American architect James Hoban.


Private Telgh Room
President's Office
Cabinet Room
Library
Bed Chamber
Bed Chamber
Dressing Room
Waiting Room
Clerk
Hall
Reception
Private Office
Secretary to the President
Guest Chamber
House-keeper
Guest Chamber
Elevator
Bath Room
Guest Chamber
Dressing Room
SECOND-STORY-PLAN-
SHOWING-
EXECUTIVE-OFFICES-AND-PRESIDENTS-FAMILY-APARTMENTS-
F.D.Owen. del.

A drawing by FD Owen from 1901 of the floor plan of the second story of the White House

14 THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS 1066

The year 1066 has gone down in history as the year of one of the closest battles for the English throne. Three would-be kings - Harald Hadrada, William of Normandy and Harold Godwinson - fought it out to be crowned but in the end, only one could be victorious. The Battle of Hastings saw the culmination of a year of conflict as, finally, England fell into the hands of a Norman duke.


HAROLD
BISHOP ODO
WILLIAM
1
2
3
4
5
6

HAROLD SETS UP HIS BASE
Harold's army establishes a position on Senlac hill, then sets up a fence of sharpened stakes along a ditch. The king orders his men to remain in this position no matter what.

THE BATTLE BEGINS
William orders his archers to fire into the Saxon shield wall. When this fails his spearmen and cavalry lead an assault.

THE NORMANS RETREAT
William's men are met by a barrage of spears and axes, and are forced to retreat. A rumour quickly spreads that William has been killed.

THE SAXONS MOVE
English forces break away from their position and pursue the invaders. William's presence on the field spurs a counterattack and the English are overwhelmed.

A TACTIC EMERGES
William sends his cavalry to the shield wall, then draws the Saxons into more pursuits by feigning flights. Still the shield wall does not break.

RIGHT ON TARGET
William's archers fire before and after the assaults and Harold is hit and killed, most commonly believed to be by an arrow to the eye. Leaderless, the English forces flee.

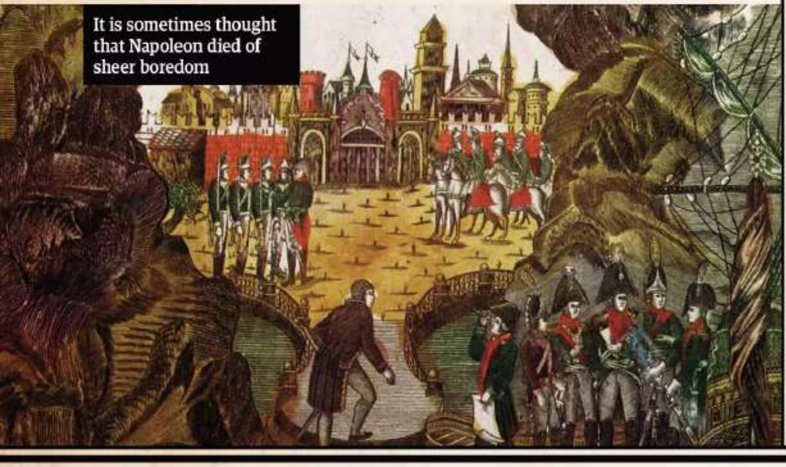
NORMANS	SAXONS
· COMMANDERS: William of Normandy	**· COMMANDER:** Harold Godwinson
· TROOPS: Unknown, about 7,000-12,000	**· TROOPS:** Unknown, around 5,000-13,000
· KEY UNIT: Norman cavalry	**· KEY UNIT:** The king's bodyguards, or 'housecarls'
· STRENGTHS: An experienced leader and rested troops	**· STRENGTHS:** The tremendously deadly battle-axes
· WEAKNESSES: Weak starting position: the English were positioned on the top of the hill with their flanks protected	**· WEAKNESSES:** Significant losses recently endured at the battle of Stamford Bridge, lack of cavalry
· CASUALTIES AND LOSSES: Unknown but the figures were heavy. However, not as high as the Saxon losses	**· CASUALTIES AND LOSSES:** Approximately 50 per cent of the force

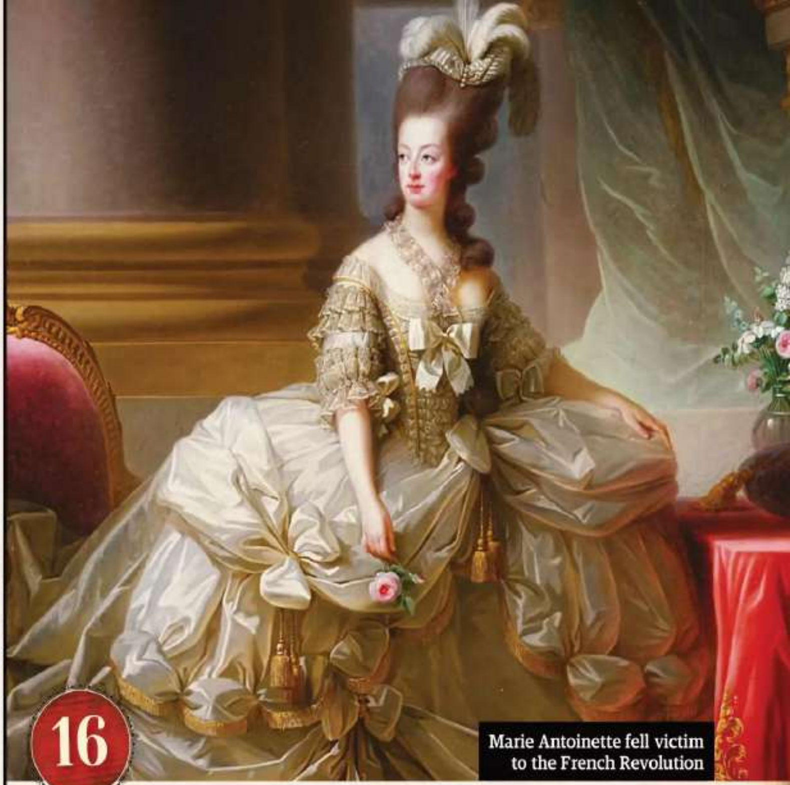
15

NAPOLEON ARRIVES ON ST HELENA 1815

After ten weeks at sea aboard HMS Northumberland, Napoleon arrived on St Helena after being exiled there by the British. The remote mid-Atlantic island is located 1,950 kilometres away from the nearest landmass, the west coast of Africa.

William Balcombe, a family friend of the French emperor, gave Napoleon refuge at Briars Pavilion when he first arrived on the island. However, he was later moved to Longwood House, which is said to have been cold, uninviting and infested with rats. It is thought his living conditions were hoped to hasten is death. Napoleon died after six years of exile on the small island.


It is sometimes thought that Napoleon died of sheer boredom


Marie Antoinette fell victim to the French Revolution

16

MARIE ANTOINETTE LOSES HER HEAD 1793

France's most infamous queen, Marie Antoinette, was executed by guillotine on the Place de la Révolution. The monarchy had been overthrown in 1789 during the French Revolution and was officially abolished in 1792. Her husband, King Louis XVI, had been executed eight months previously, leaving his wife in a state of shock. Their eldest daughter, Marie Thérèse, was the only member of the family to survive the Terror.

17

EINSTEIN ARRIVES IN THE US 1933

One of the most famous Jews to flee Nazi Germany was Albert Einstein, who emigrated to the United States in 1933. Before making his way across the Atlantic he had been banned from working at any universities in Germany and his books were publicly burned because of his religious beliefs. The esteemed scientist discovered he was on the assassination list and the Nazis had put a bounty worth £5,000 on his head.

He boarded a ship from England to New York with hundreds of German Jews who were also escaping the Nazis. Upon his arrival he found a job at Princeton and sought American citizenship after deciding to settle there permanently. In the years before his death in 1955, Einstein made many scientific contributions, including developing the atomic bomb.

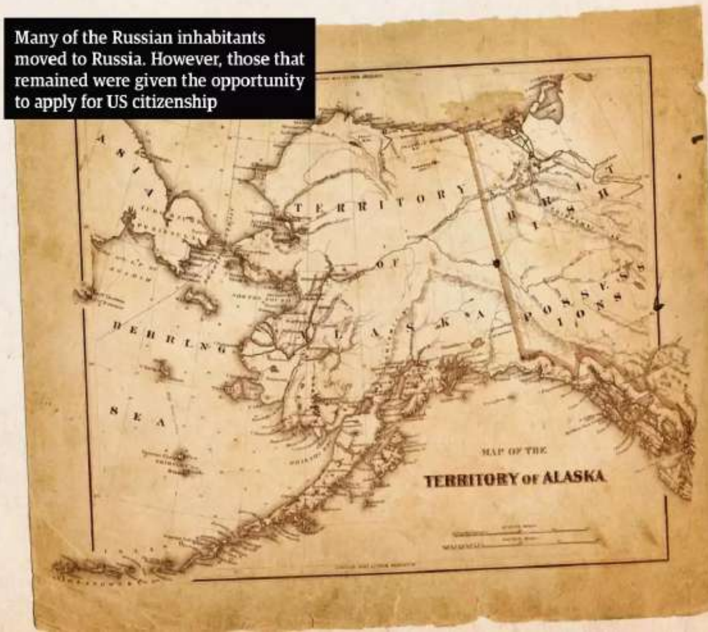
Einstein is shown arriving in New York after being exiled from Germany

18

PURCHASE OF ALASKA 1867

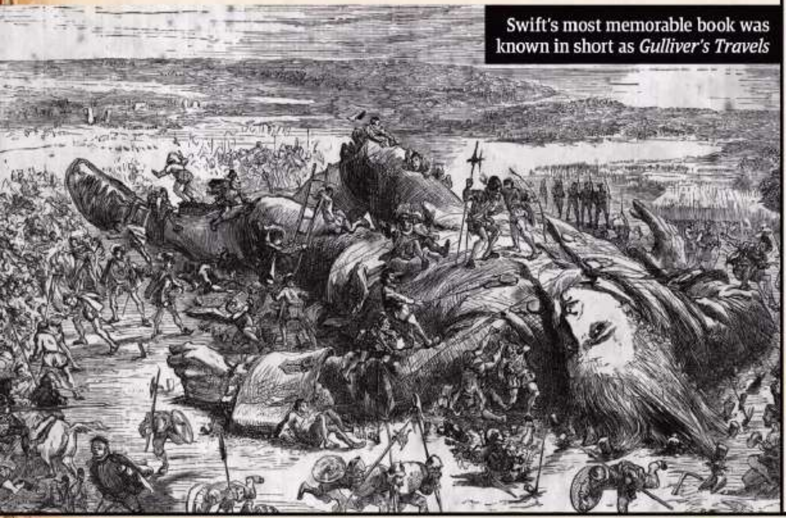
Land at the northwestern tip of North America was purchased by the Untied States from Russia in 1897. The region had been offered several times before as Russia was struggling with debt left by the Crimean War and the land had become an economic liability. However, negotiations had been postponed at the beginning of the American Civil War.

The United States officially took possession of the area on 18 October in a flag-changing ceremony at Sitka. However, Alaska wasn't actually accepted into the Union as the 49th state until January 1959.


Many of the Russian inhabitants moved to Russia. However, those that remained were given the opportunity to apply for US citizenship

19 JONATHAN SWIFT DIES 1745

Irish author Jonathan Swift is best remembered for his 1726 book *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World. In Four Parts. By Lemuel Gulliver, First a Surgeon, and then a Captain of Several Ships,* . Born in Dublin in 1667, he earned a degree from Trinity College before the Glorious Revolution of 1688 drove him to England where he was an assistant to Sir William Temple for ten years. After Temple's death Swift returned to the writing that he loved and anonymously released *A Tale of a Tub* and *The Battle of the Books* in 1704. Swift suffered from a stroke later in life and lost the ability to speak before passing away in 1745.

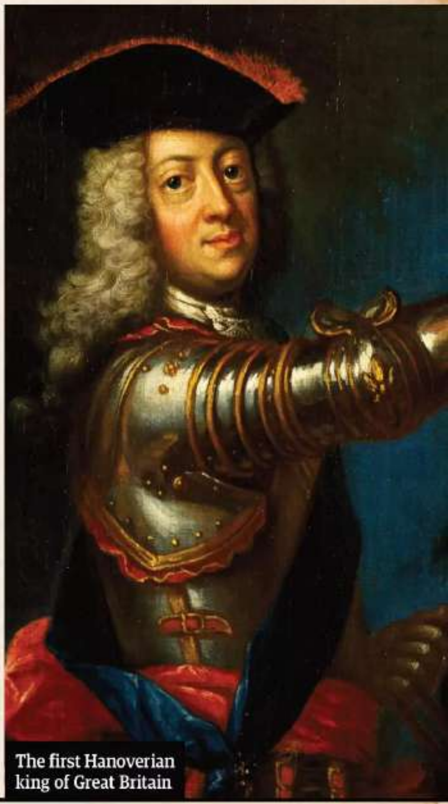


Swift's most memorable book was known in short as *Gulliver's Travels*

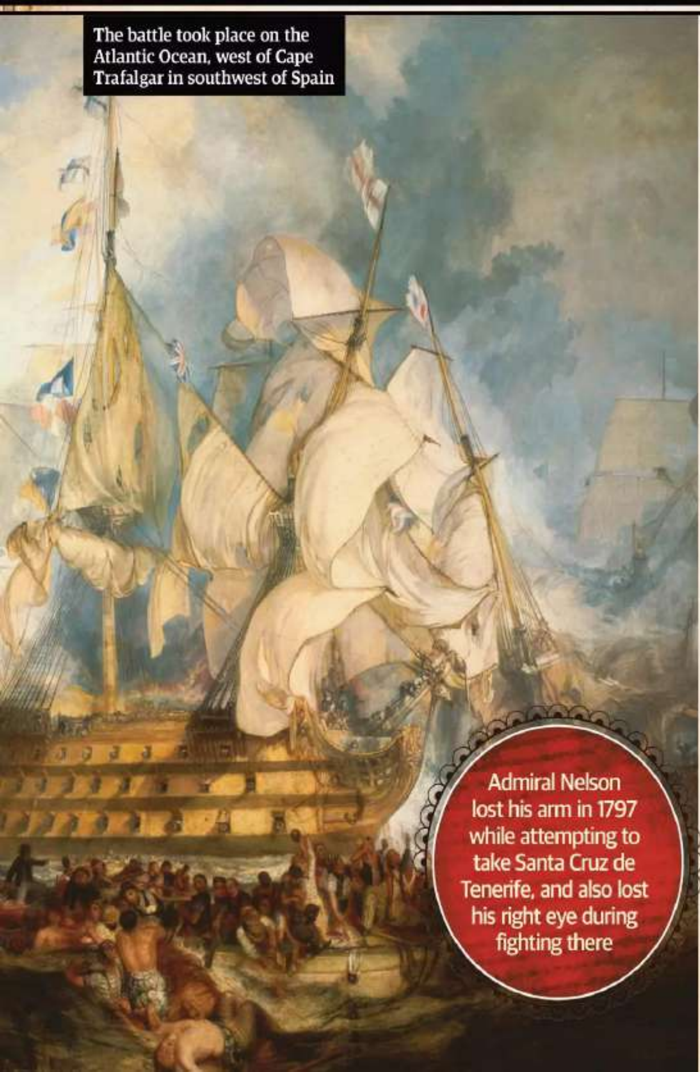
20 CORONATION OF GEORGE I 1714

George Louis of Brunswick-Lüneburg was made third in line for the throne on the death of Queen Anne thanks to the English Parliament's Act of Settlement of 1701 that sought to ensure a Protestant succession to the throne. However, when his mother, Sophia of Hanover, died on 8 June 1714 he became next in line, and on the death of Queen Anne just under two months later, the Whigs heralded him into power, making him the first Hanoverian king of Great Britain as George I.

As a German, George was somewhat of an outside in Britain but during the War of the Spanish Succession George fought with distinction against the French army and England's Whig politicians began to favour him. He died at the age of 67 from a stroke.



The first Hanoverian king of Great Britain



The battle took place on the Atlantic Ocean, west of Cape Trafalgar in southwest of Spain

Admiral Nelson lost his arm in 1797 while attempting to take Santa Cruz de Tenerife, and also lost his right eye during fighting there

21 BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR 1805

In 1805, Britain was on the brink of invasion by the emperor of France, Napoleon Bonaparte. The Grande Armée, which was gathered in northern France, only needed a fleet of ships to carry it across the English Channel and Great Britain would surely fall. That fleet, under command of Admiral Villeneuve, had given Nelson chase across the Atlantic Ocean and back as it gathered ships for the intended invasion. Known as the Combined Fleet of Spanish and French ships, it numbered more than enough vessels to ferry the French army securely to England. But first it had to reach France to collect them.

The British Royal Navy was tasked with locating and intercepting the Combined Fleet to stop any chance of it reaching the Grande Armée. Spies in France and Spain had provided ample intelligence regarding Napoleon's plan, as well as the movements of the allied fleet. In September 1805, Villeneuve's ships sat in Cádiz harbour, with Nelson's fleet waiting more than 50 miles offshore. A line of signal ships monitored Cádiz, eagerly waiting for Villeneuve to make a move.

Already a hero back home, Nelson had served more than 34 years in the Royal Navy. As the British force approached the south coast of Spain, it anchored further out to sea to conceal its presence from the Combined Fleet, which was still in the harbour. At all costs Nelson wanted to prevent Villeneuve from escaping either north towards the Bay of Biscay and to France, or east towards the Gibraltar Strait and from there to the Mediterranean.

The French admiral was being put under pressure from his emperor back home. His delay in leaving Spain and sailing for France had caused unease among his staff, and outright resentment from Napoleon, who called him a coward. Worse, Villeneuve had been fed false information about the British fleet and was still unaware that Nelson had arrived off the coast. Had he known that the foremost admiral of the time was tracking his fleet, he may well have avoided the catastrophe.

22 CÉZANNE DIES 1906

Artist Paul Cézanne was a post-impressionist French painter who greatly influenced 20th-century abstract art. He is said to have formed the bridge between late-19th-century Impressionism and the early 20th century's Cubism. Both Matisse and Picasso have admitted they were inspired by his work.

While his varied painting style evolved over the years, Cézanne's paintings from the last three decades of his life established new avenues in the development of modern art.

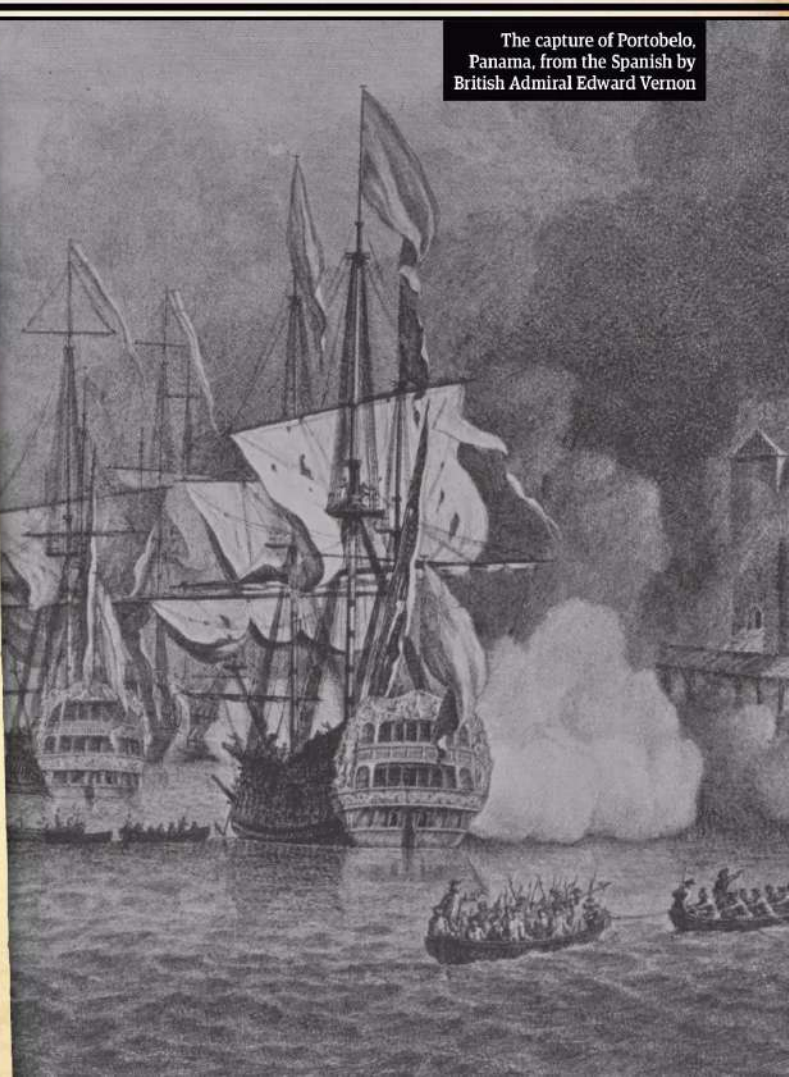
Cézanne died in Aix-en-Provence, and although public acceptance of his art only happened in the last decade of his work, his approach was widely admired by his colleagues. He hoped that his paintings would help to educate other artists, and this was achieved when a number of important painters purchased his work, including Paul Gauguin, Pablo Picasso, Pierre Bonnard, Kazimir Malevich, Henri Matisse and Marcel Duchamp.

Cézanne's intellectual approach to formal issues in his works helped to set the foundation for Picasso and other artists' journeys into Cubism, and his approach to colour and brushstroke influenced Matisse and other Fauve artists in the first decade of the century.

He was a master of design, and the tone, composition and colour that can be seen across his life's work is highly characteristic and now recognisable around the world.

Over the years, the public has also embraced his work, and Cézanne is now recognised as the most significant precursor of 20th-century formal abstraction in painting. He developed a purely pictorial language that balanced analysis with emotion and structure with meaning.

Picasso once stated that Cézanne was "the father of us all"


The capture of Portobelo, Panama, from the Spanish by British Admiral Edward Vernon

23

BRITAIN DECLARES WAR ON SPAIN IN THE BATTLE OF JENKINS' EAR 1739

Armed conflict between Britain and Spain began after a long-standing Anglo-Spanish antagonism fostered by illicit British trading activities in the Spanish Caribbean and the brutal attempts by Spain's colonial coast guard vessels to suppress such ventures.

The War of Jenkins' Ear between Great Britain and Spain began in October 1739 and eventually merged into the War of the Austrian Succession. The war started after Captain Robert Jenkins appeared before a committee of the House of Commons and told them that his ear had been cut off in April 1731 in the West Indies by Spanish coastguards, eight years before the war began.

The coastguards boarded his ship, called Rebecca, pillaged it, and then set it adrift. The British were already agitated by the Spanish behaviour towards British ships, and Jenkins' tale riled the public, who wanted to teach the Spanish a lesson. Robert Jenkins may have one of the most famous ears in history... after Van Gogh's, of course!

$100. WILL
BUY THIS CAR.
MUST HAVE CASH.
LOST ALL ON THE
STOCK MARKET

Billions of dollars were lost as the Western world was plunged into a Great Depression

24 BLACK THURSDAY 1929

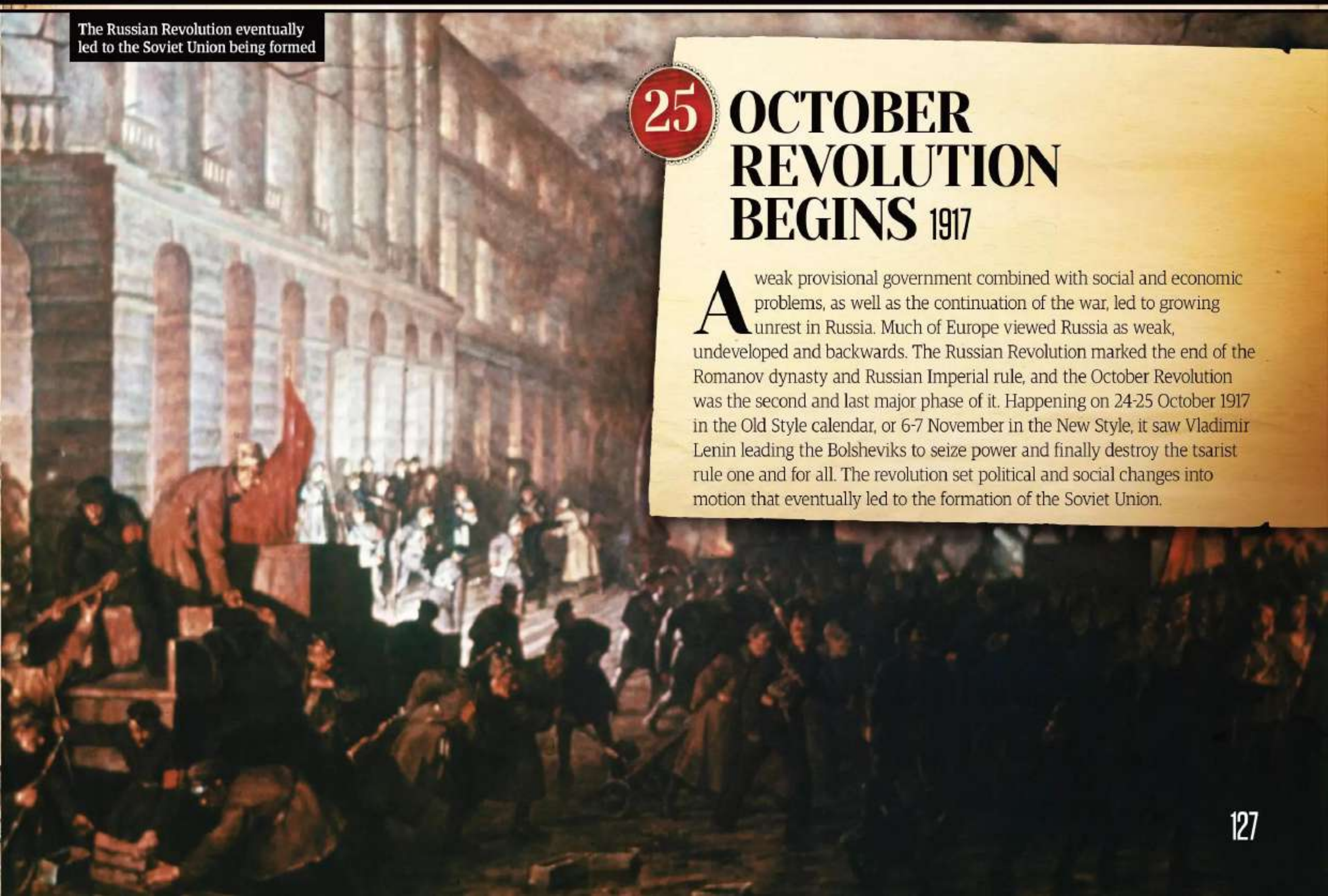
Before the New York Stock Exchange opened on 24 October 1929, investors were on edge. The Dow Jones Industrial Average had fallen 4.6 per cent the day before, and *The Washington Post* published the headline "Huge Selling Wave Creates Near-Panic as Stocks Collapse". The market opened at 305.85, but it immediately fell 11 per cent during intra-day trading. Known as Black Thursday, it was the beginning of the Wall Street Crash, and it continued through until Black Tuesday on 29 October.

When the Wall Street Stock Market crashed in 1929, the world economy crashed down with it into the Great Depression. And by the end of 1932, America was in the depths of the greatest economic depression in history.

The crash signalled the beginning of the 12-year Great Depression that affected all of the Western industrial countries. Billions of dollars were lost in an instant.

After the end of World War I, the Roaring Twenties made investing in stock a popular activity, and those without cash borrowed from their stockbroker. Some banks invested their depositors' savings without telling them, and this total misuse of funds created the run on the banks that was a trademark of the Great Depression. After the crash, the depression deepened as there were too many small banks that didn't have enough funds for the sudden rush to withdraw savings.

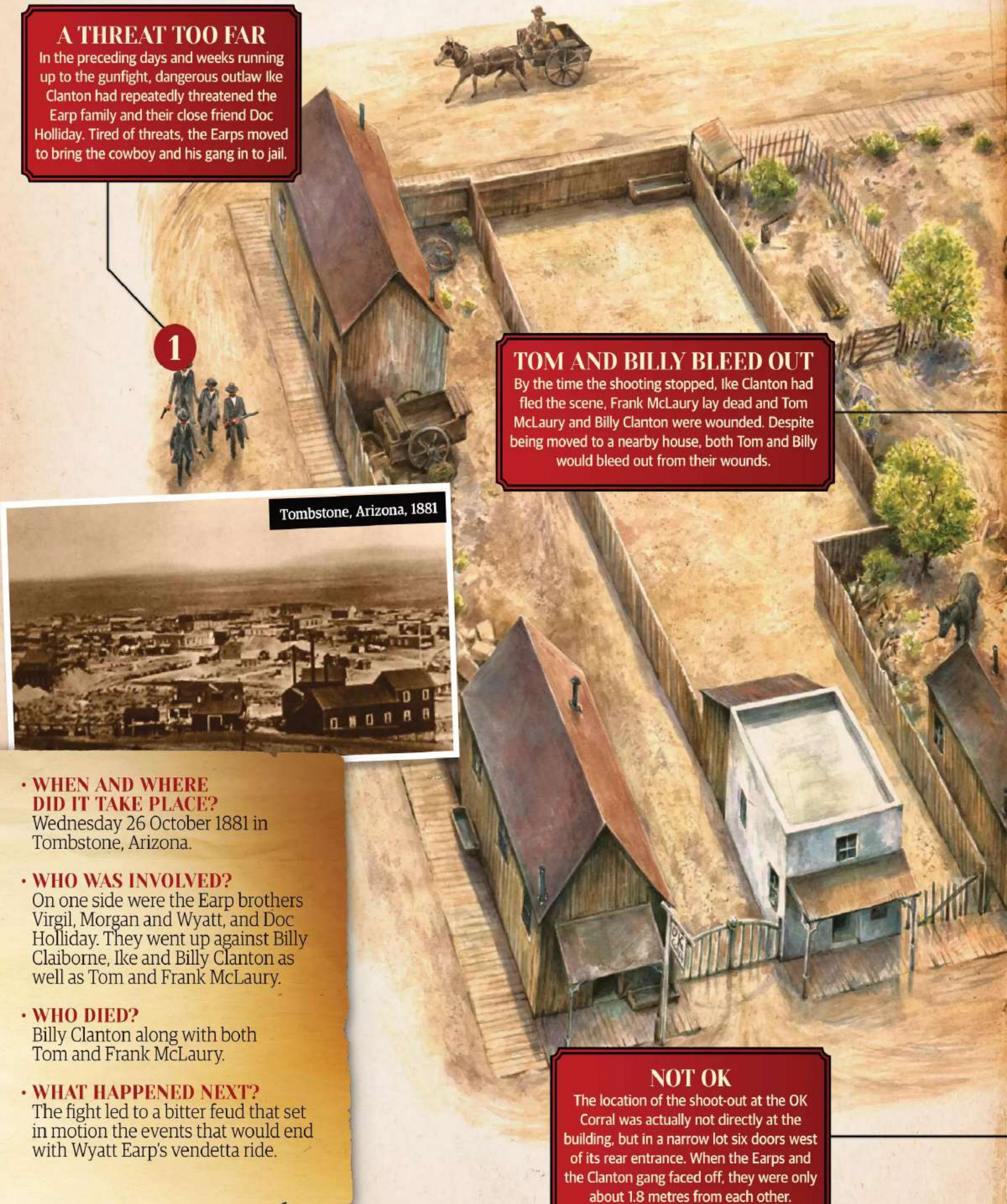
As early as 1926 there were signs that the boom was under threat, and one of the first signs was the collapse of land prices in Florida. Eventually there were too many goods being made and not enough people to buy them. Farmers had too much food in the 1920s, so prices for the produce became lower.



The Russian Revolution eventually led to the Soviet Union being formed

25 OCTOBER REVOLUTION BEGINS 1917

A weak provisional government combined with social and economic problems, as well as the continuation of the war, led to growing unrest in Russia. Much of Europe viewed Russia as weak, undeveloped and backwards. The Russian Revolution marked the end of the Romanov dynasty and Russian Imperial rule, and the October Revolution was the second and last major phase of it. Happening on 24-25 October 1917 in the Old Style calendar, or 6-7 November in the New Style, it saw Vladimir Lenin leading the Bolsheviks to seize power and finally destroy the tsarist rule one and for all. The revolution set political and social changes into motion that eventually led to the formation of the Soviet Union.



A THREAT TOO FAR

In the preceding days and weeks running up to the gunfight, dangerous outlaw Ike Clanton had repeatedly threatened the Earp family and their close friend Doc Holliday. Tired of threats, the Earps moved to bring the cowboy and his gang in to jail.

TOM AND BILLY BLEED OUT

By the time the shooting stopped, Ike Clanton had fled the scene, Frank McLaury lay dead and Tom McLaury and Billy Clanton were wounded. Despite being moved to a nearby house, both Tom and Billy would bleed out from their wounds.

Tombstone, Arizona, 1881

· WHEN AND WHERE DID IT TAKE PLACE?
Wednesday 26 October 1881 in Tombstone, Arizona.

· WHO WAS INVOLVED?
On one side were the Earp brothers Virgil, Morgan and Wyatt, and Doc Holliday. They went up against Billy Claiborne, Ike and Billy Clanton as well as Tom and Frank McLaury.

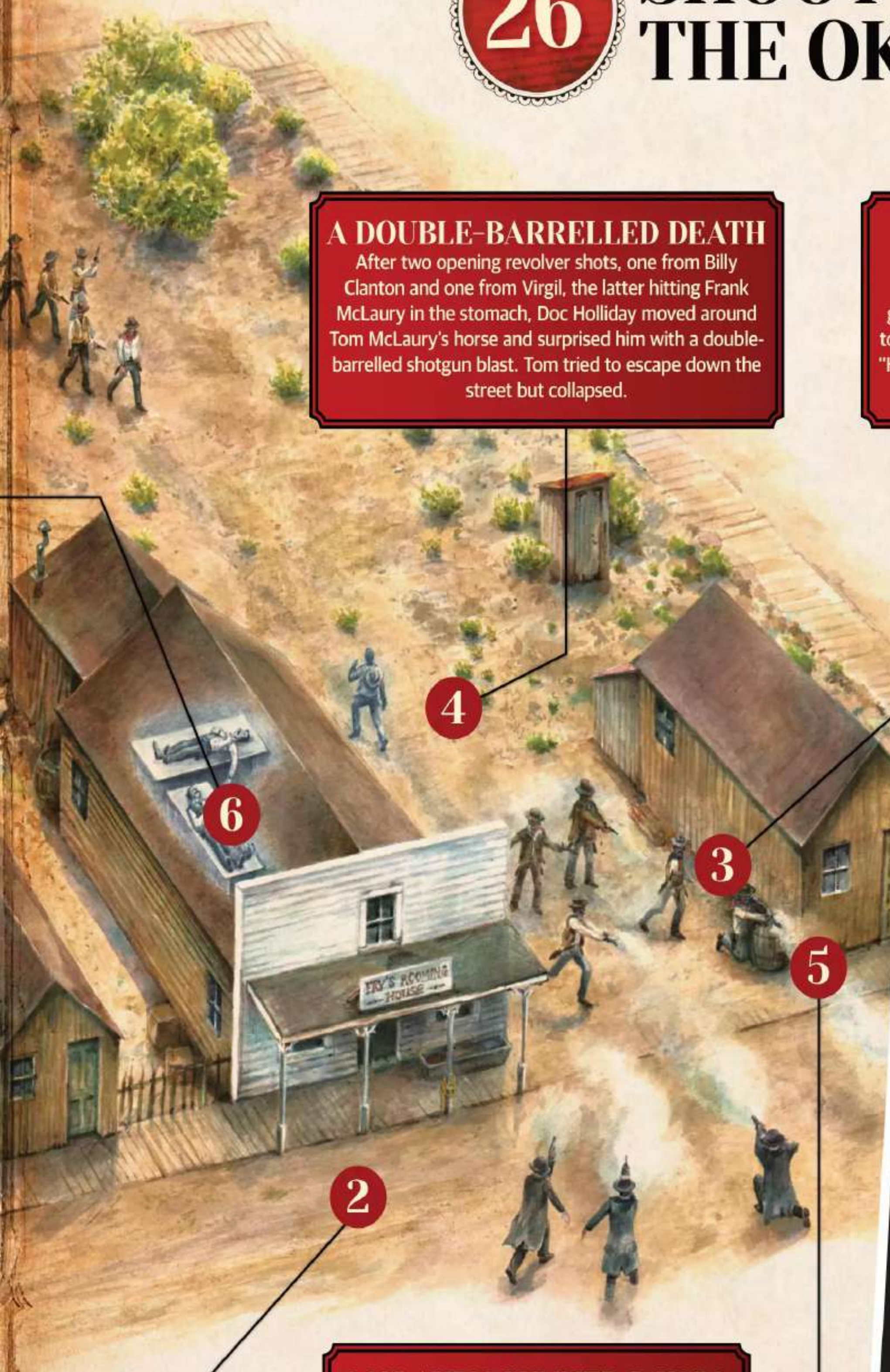
· WHO DIED?
Billy Clanton along with both Tom and Frank McLaury.

· WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
The fight led to a bitter feud that set in motion the events that would end with Wyatt Earp's vendetta ride.

NOT OK

The location of the shoot-out at the OK Corral was actually not directly at the building, but in a narrow lot six doors west of its rear entrance. When the Earps and the Clanton gang faced off, they were only about 1.8 metres from each other.

26 SHOOT-OUT AT THE OK CORRAL 1881



A DOUBLE-BARRELLED DEATH

After two opening revolver shots, one from Billy Clanton and one from Virgil, the latter hitting Frank McLaury in the stomach, Doc Holliday moved around Tom McLaury's horse and surprised him with a double-barrelled shotgun blast. Tom tried to escape down the street but collapsed.

FAST ON THE DRAW

Upon discovering the cowboys, Virgil Earp shouted, "Throw up your hands, I want your guns!" Frank McLaury and Billy Clanton moved to draw and cock their six-shooters. Virgil yelled, "Hold! I don't mean that!" but it was too late and the shooting began.

MCLAURY GUNNED DOWN

A chaotic exchange of gunfire occurred, with Billy Clanton shooting Morgan Earp across the back, wounding his shoulder and he himself being hit in the wrist. Frank McLaury exchanged some shots with Doc Holliday but was shot through the head and killed instantly.

View of the OK Corral

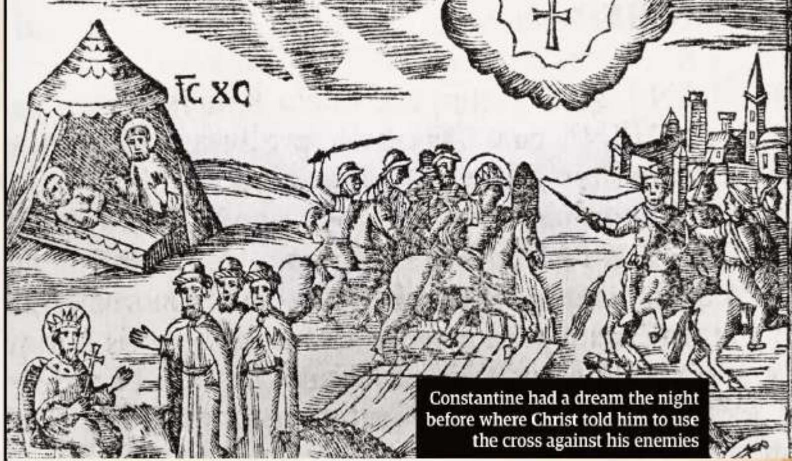
27

THEODORE ROOSEVELT MARRIES 1880

Roosevelt didn't often talk about his first wife in the years that followed

On his 22nd birthday, the 26th president of the United States married Alice Hathaway Lee. They met at a relative of Lee's home in 1878 as Roosevelt was a classmate of Lee's cousin at Harvard. When talking of their first meeting, Roosevelt later reportedly said, "As long as I live I shall never forget how sweetly she looked, and how pretty she greeted me."

Roosevelt proposed marriage in June 1879, but Lee kept him waiting for eight months before agreeing. They married in Brookline's first Parish Unitarian Church and had a daughter, Alice Lee Roosevelt, on 12 February 1884. Sadly Lee died two days after giving birth due to an undiagnosed kidney failure. In his diary, Roosevelt wrote a big X across the page then, "The light has gone out of my life."



Constantine had a dream the night before where Christ told him to use the cross against his enemies

28

BATTLE OF THE MILVIAN BRIDGE

312 CE

The Battle of the Milvian Bridge was just one of a series of victories that made Constantine the Great master of the Roman Empire in 324 CE. It was, however, most famous for its links to his conversion to Christianity - later seen to be one of the most important events in world history.

Constantine had been a pagan monotheist, devoted to the sun god Sol Invictus. It is said that before the battle he and his army saw a cross of light in the sky with words that have been translated to: "In this sign conquer." Apparently Constantine had a dream the night before where Christ had told him to use the cross against his enemies.

He marked his soldiers' shields with the Christian symbol and when victory was theirs, he attributed it to the god of the Christians. Although this account is questioned by today's historians, Constantine's conversion to Christianity shaped the rest of human history. By 324 CE, the birthday of Sol Invictus on 25 December had become the birthday of Christ.

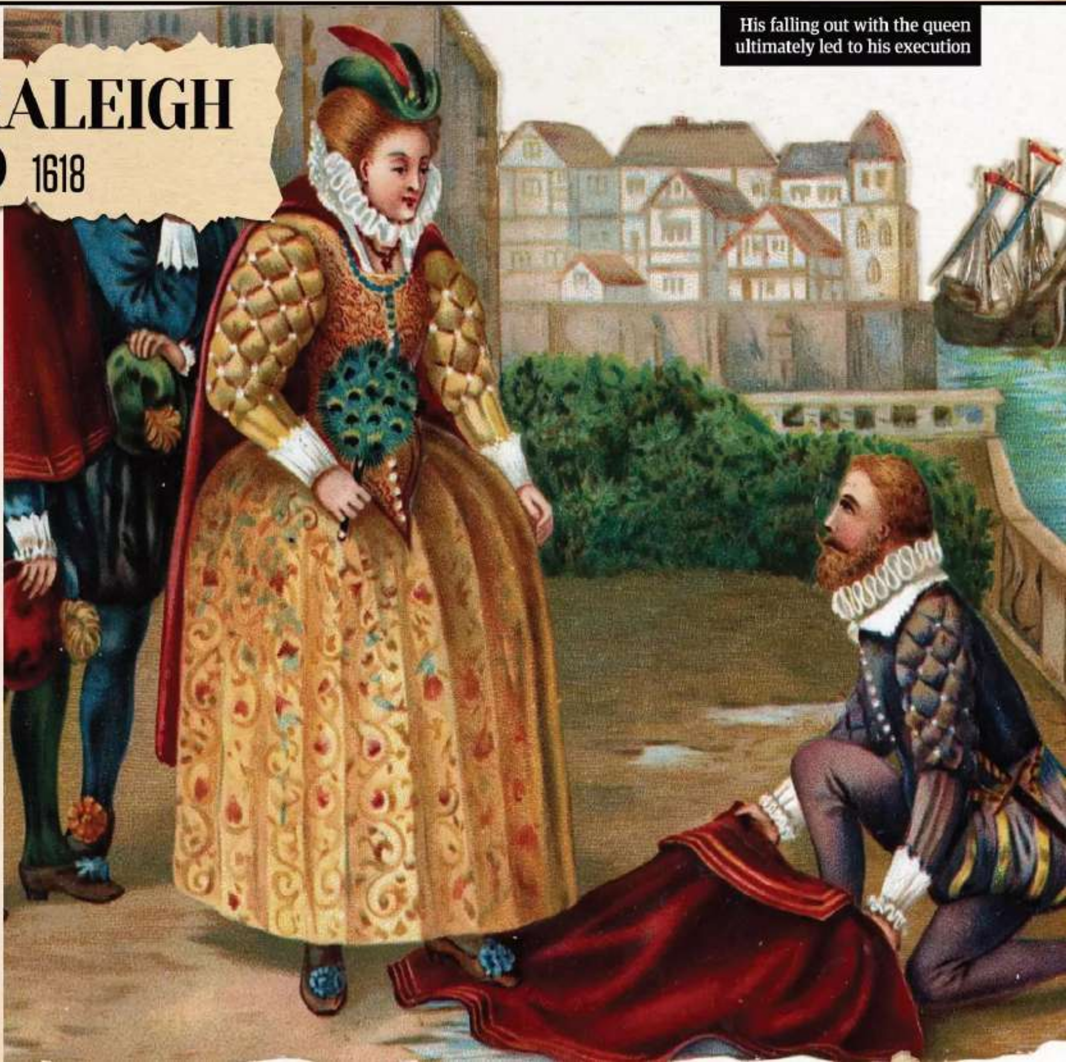
29

WALTER RALEIGH EXECUTED 1618

Sir Walter Raleigh, an English adventurer and writer, was beheaded in London for conspiring against King James I 15 years before.

During Queen Elizabeth's reign, Raleigh organised three notable expeditions to America, including the first English settlement in 1587. However, the adventurer's popularity with the monarch later dwindled after she found out about his secret marriage to one of her maids of honour. They were both imprisoned in the Tower of London, and after buying himself out, he worked to distance himself from the queen.

When Elizabeth died in 1603, Raleigh was accused of being an enemy of King James I and was imprisoned with a death sentence. However, this was lifted and in 1616 Raleigh was freed to lead an expedition to South America to establish a gold mine. Unfortunately the expedition failed and when Raleigh returned to England, the death sentence of 1603 was reinstated.



His falling out with the queen ultimately led to his execution

Welles had to explain to journalists that he had not intended to cause panic with the broadcast

30

WELLES' BROADCAST CAUSES MARTIAN PANIC 1938

Around 80 years ago, one man's voice sent panic sweeping across the United States. Reading an adaptation of HG Wells' novel *The War of the Worlds* for radio, the deep, resonant tones of actor Orson Welles were mistaken for a news report. The broadcast wasn't planned to be a hoax, and CBS Radio had issued alerts that it was a production by Mercury Theater before the show began. Unfortunately, a large proportion of the audience had been listening to ventriloquist Edgar Bergen and his dummy Charlie McCarthy on a different station and had tuned in after Welles' broadcast had started. While the mass panic it induced is now often exaggerated, over 1 million listeners were said to have taken the broadcast as real at the time.

31

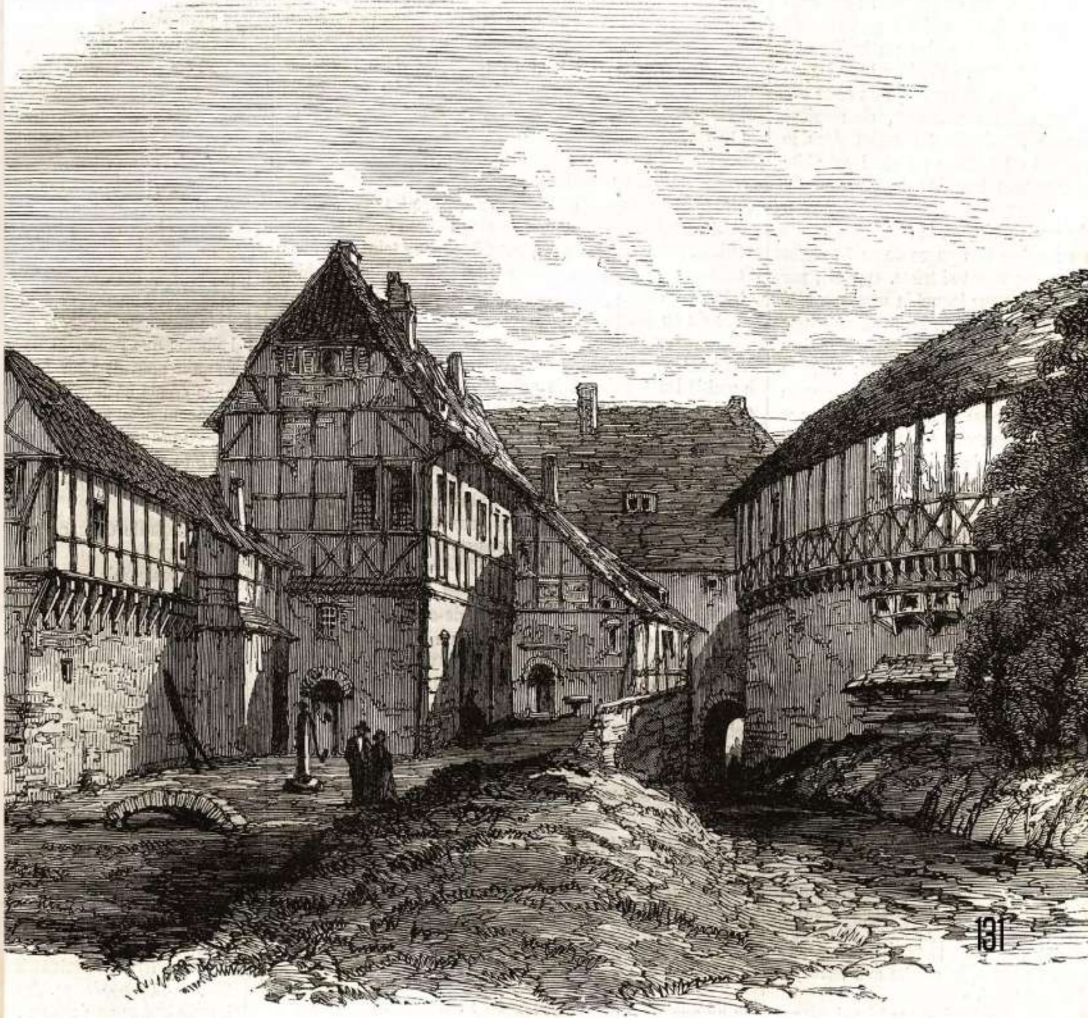
95 THESES NAILED TO THE DOOR 1517

Martin Luther became one of Western history's most significant figures. Born in 1483 in Eisleben, Germany, he spent much of his early life working as a monk and scholar. In 1517 he wrote a document attacking the Catholic Church's corrupt practice of selling 'indulgences' to absolve sin.

His *95 Theses*, which he nailed to the door of Wittenberg Castle's church, sparked the Protestant Reformation and truly changed the course of religious and cultural history in Western Europe. The Catholic Church became divided, and the Protestantism that emerged was shaped by Luther's ideas.

In his later years he fell into ill health, passing away in 1546, aged 62.

Luther's home in Wartburg



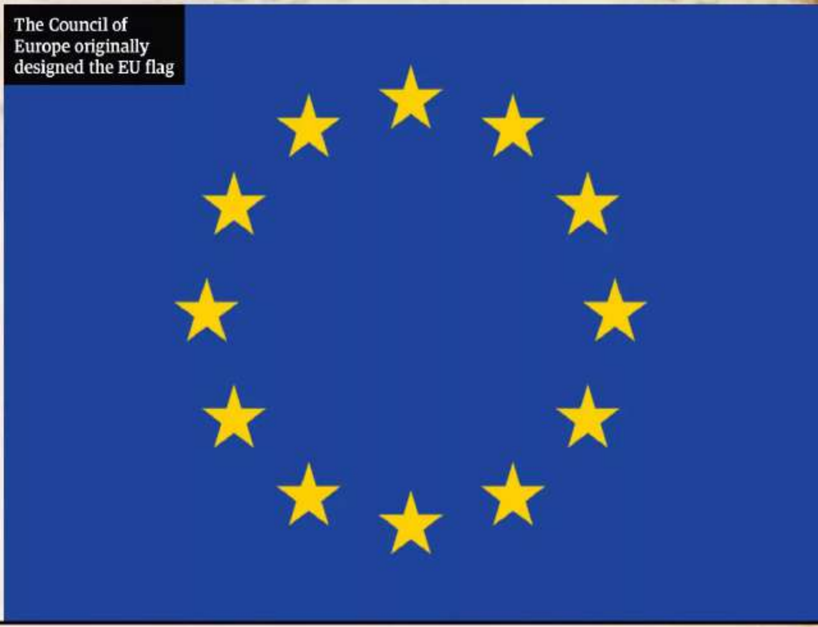
NOVEMBER

01 EU FOUNDED 1993

Plans for a united Europe had begun after World War II in an attempt to end the frequent wars between neighbouring countries. From 1950, the steel and coal communities in Europe began to bring together countries economically and politically.

Finally, in the 1990s it became a reality as a union was finally formed to unite the nations of Western Europe after years of conflict under the Maastricht Treaty, which was first drafted in 1991 by delegates from the European Community. It called for a strengthened European parliament, common foreign and security policies, and a central European bank, which began the groundwork for a single common currency.

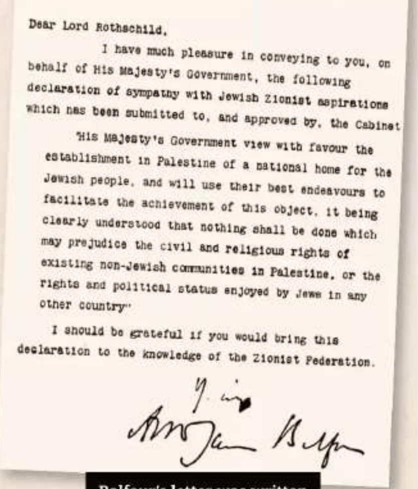
Initially 12 nations joined together to form the European Union: Great Britain, France, Germany, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Denmark, Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands. In 1995, Austria, Finland and Sweden became members too.



The Council of Europe originally designed the EU flag

02 BALFOUR DECLARATION 1917

The British foreign secretary Arthur Balfour was the one who submitted a declaration of intent to establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine - hence the declaration's name. He wrote a letter to Baron Lionel Walter Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish Community, expressing the British Government's support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The influence of the letter was immediate, and in 1919 Britain was entrusted with the administration of Palestine as long as it worked on behalf of both its Jewish and Arab inhabitants.



Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours
Arthur James Balfour

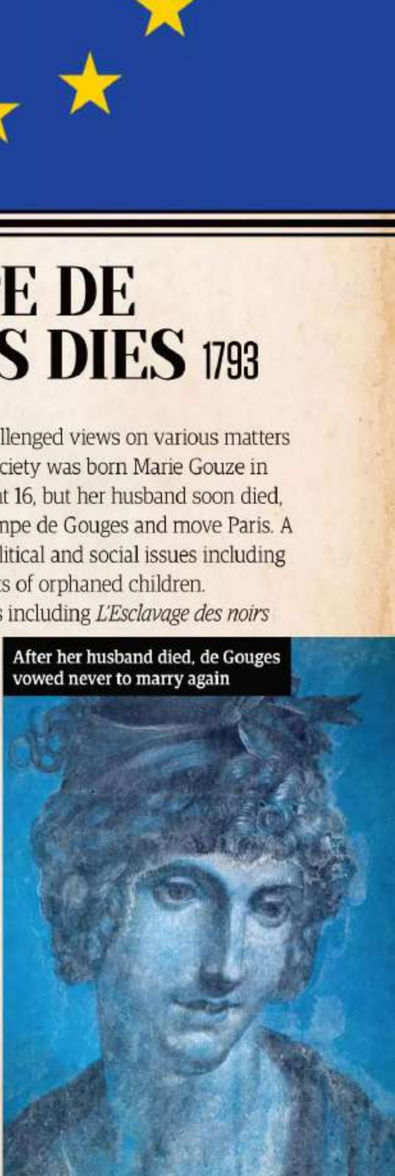
Balfour's letter was written to Rothschild on behalf of Her Majesty's government

03 OLYMPE DE GOUGES DIES 1793

The famous French writer who challenged views on various matters including the role of women in society was born Marie Gouze in Montauban, France. She married at 16, but her husband soon died, inspiring her to change her name to Olympe de Gouges and move Paris. A strong activist, she involved herself in political and social issues including divorce, maternity hospitals and the rights of orphaned children.

A keen writer, de Gouges penned plays including *L'Esclavage des noirs* (*Slavery of Blacks*). In 1791, she published the pamphlet *Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne* (*Declaration of the Rights of Woman and of the* [Female] *Citizen*) in response to the male version. Her pamphlet said that women should have the same rights as men and children born out of wedlock should be treated fairly when it comes to dealing with inheritance.

During the French Revolution, de Gouges sided with Girondins and defended Louis XVI, for which she was later tried and sent to the guillotine.

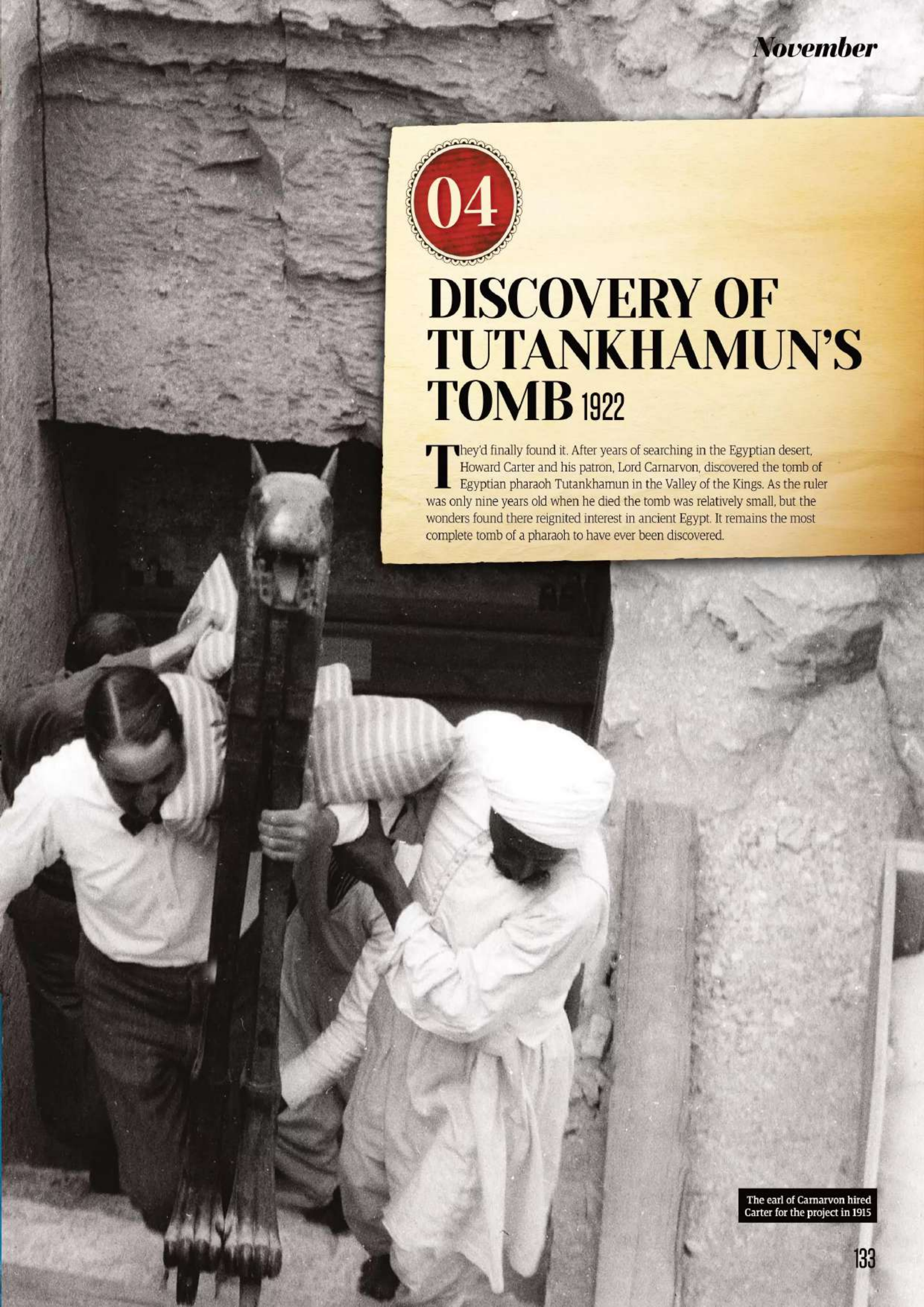


After her husband died, de Gouges vowed never to marry again

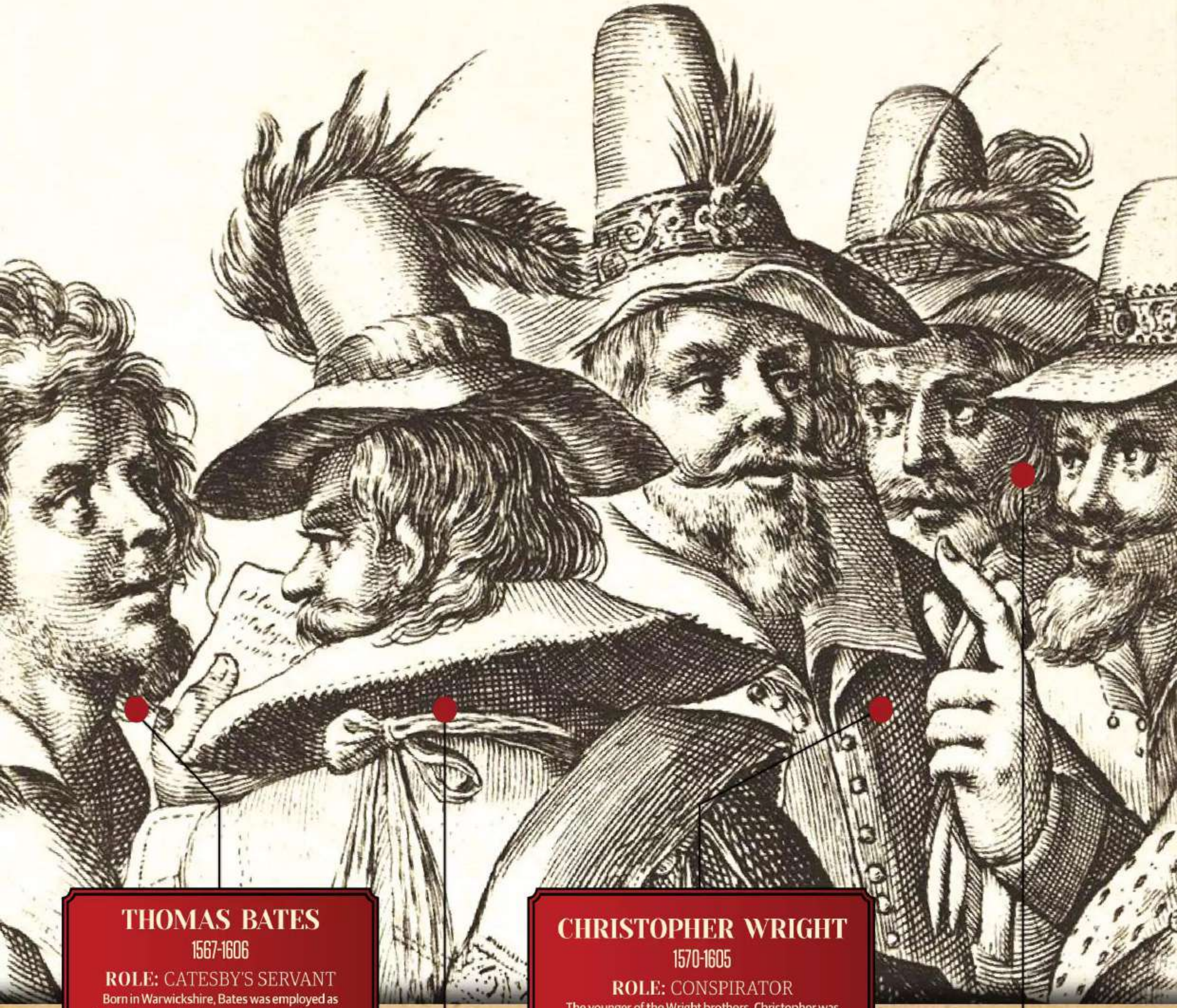
04

DISCOVERY OF TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB 1922

They'd finally found it. After years of searching in the Egyptian desert, Howard Carter and his patron, Lord Carnarvon, discovered the tomb of Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings. As the ruler was only nine years old when he died the tomb was relatively small, but the wonders found there reignited interest in ancient Egypt. It remains the most complete tomb of a pharaoh to have ever been discovered.



The earl of Carnarvon hired Carter for the project in 1915



THOMAS BATES

1567-1606

ROLE: CATESBY'S SERVANT

Born in Warwickshire, Bates was employed as Catesby's servant and was seen as a hard-working and loyal man. Due to his close proximity to Catesby, he became suspicious of his unusual activity and was invited into the plot. He became a useful accomplice - as an ordinary man, he could perform many actions without arousing suspicion.

CHRISTOPHER WRIGHT

1570-1605

ROLE: CONSPIRATOR

The younger of the Wright brothers, Christopher was described as taller, fatter and fairer than John. A private and discreet man, since his conversion he was fully committed to the Catholic faith, and he took part in the same act of rebellion against the Protestant government as his brother and Catesby.

ROBERT WINTOUR

1568-1606

ROLE: FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The oldest Wintour brother, Robert inherited the majority of his father's estate, including Huddington Court. Through marriage, Robert aligned himself to a strong Catholic family, and his home became a refuge for priests.

JOHN WRIGHT

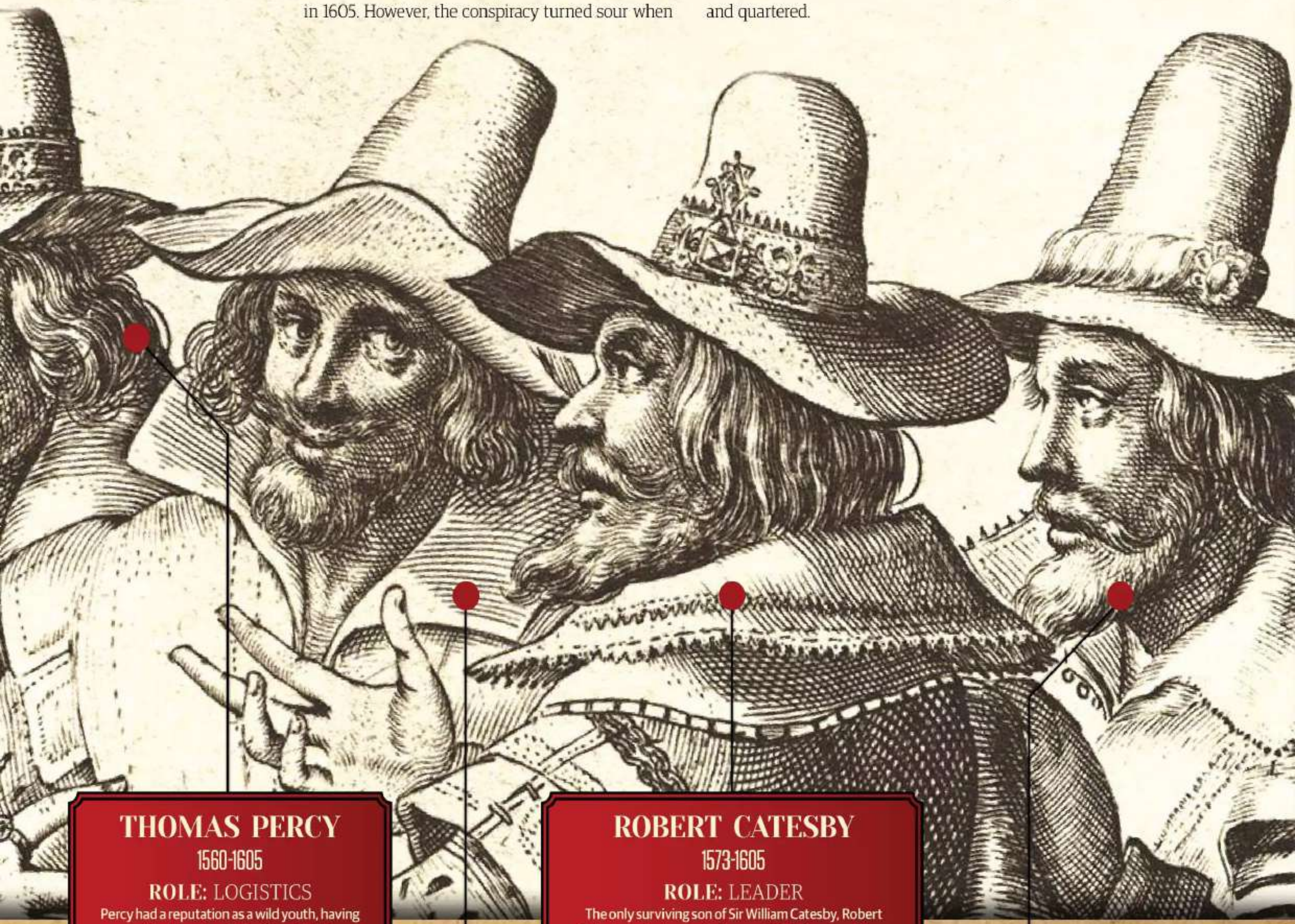
1568-1605

ROLE: ORIGINAL CONSPIRATOR

The older of the two Wright brothers, John was a school friend of Guy Fawkes and was thrown in prison for taking part in rebellions. With a reputation as a brave, loyal and skilled swordsman, he converted to Catholicism and became associated with Catesby.

05 THE GUNPOWDER PLOT 1605

Angry at the Protestant king's treatment of Catholics in England, a group of men decided to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605. However, the conspiracy turned sour when one of the plot's members, Guy Fawkes, being caught with the gunpowder in the cellars. The men were all tried for treason and sentenced to be hung, drawn and quartered.



THOMAS PERCY

1560-1605

ROLE: LOGISTICS

Percy had a reputation as a wild youth, having possibly abandoned his wife and killed a Scotsman in a skirmish. When he converted to Roman Catholicism, it helped to calm some of his more rebellious ways as he was able to funnel his fiery nature into bettering the Catholic cause in England.

ROBERT CATESBY

1573-1605

ROLE: LEADER

The only surviving son of Sir William Catesby, Robert Catesby gained a reputation as a Catholic sympathiser after taking part in a rebellion in hopes of usurping Queen Elizabeth I. Desperate to reclaim Catholic power, Catesby concocted a plot that would require the cooperation of only a few trusted men but was capable of destroying Protestant power in England.

GUY FAWKES

1570-1606

ROLE: EXPLOSIVES EXPERT

Born in York, Fawkes lost his father at a young age and when his mother married a Catholic, he converted to the faith. He fought for Spain in the Eighty Years' War, and ended up adopting the Italian form of his name, 'Guido'. He was furiously opposed to King James I, describing him and all of Scotland as heretics.

THOMAS WINTOUR

1571-1606

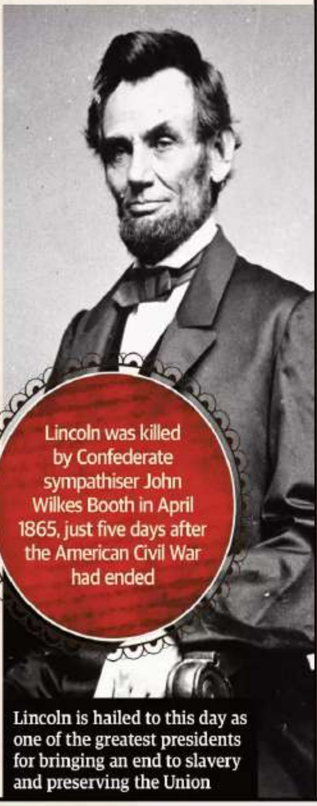
ROLE: ORIGINAL CO-CONSPIRATOR

Thomas Wintour was intelligent, witty and well educated. He fought against Catholic Spain, but his views quickly changed and he became a faithful follower of Roman Catholicism. Thomas travelled to Spain in an attempt to drum up support - an act known as the Spanish Treason - but his success was lacking and he was driven to try other, more drastic methods.

06 LINCOLN ELECTED PRESIDENT 1860

With only 40 per cent of the vote, Abraham Lincoln managed to defeat three strong candidates - Northern Democrat Stephen Douglas, Constitutional Union candidate John Bell, and Southern Democrat John C Breckinridge - to become the first Republican leader of the United States. However, the victory of the 16th president triggered the secession of the southern states, which had been threatened if a Republican was elected. This ultimately led to the American Civil War.

By his inauguration on 4 March 1861, seven states had already cut their ties with the Union. Just one month later the civil war began, and within a few months the number of succeeded states hit 11. Under the United States 21 remained, while the 11 southern slave states adopted the title the Confederate States of America. In 1863, support began to dwindle for the Confederate and Lincoln emancipated the slaves before winning re-election in 1864.



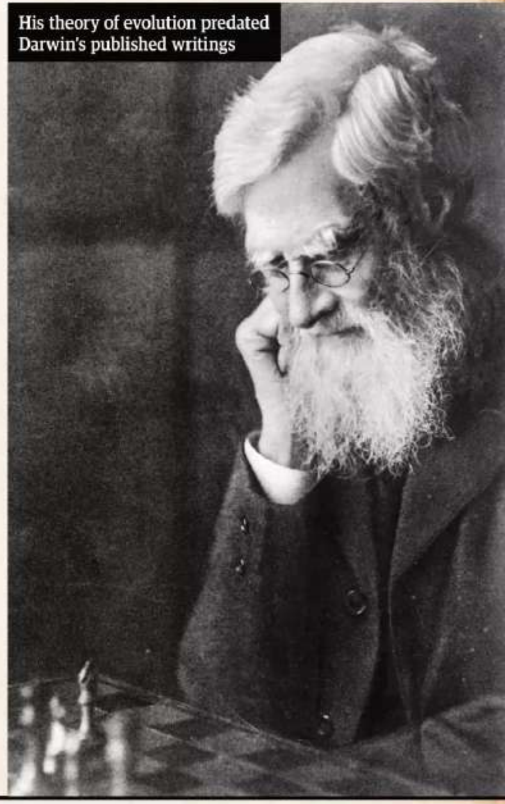
Lincoln was killed by Confederate sympathiser John Wilkes Booth in April 1865, just five days after the American Civil War had ended

Lincoln is hailed to this day as one of the greatest presidents for bringing an end to slavery and preserving the Union

07 ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE DIES 1913

Alfred Russel Wallace was an explorer, collector, naturalist, geographer, anthropologist and political commentator. His most notable contribution was his theory of evolution by natural selection, which predated Charles Darwin's published work.

Evolution was just one of many issues that Wallace wrote about, with the others including spiritualism, island biogeography, life on Mars and more. Wallace wrote 21 books in total, and the list of his published articles and letters contains more than 700 items. He died at the age of 91 and was buried in Broadstone, Dorset.



His theory of evolution predated Darwin's published writings

Hitler declared that the national revolution had begun

08 BEER HALL PUTSCH BEGINS 1923

As early as 1923, Adolf Hitler launched his first attempt at seizing control of the German government. After World War I, Germany was ordered to pay war reparations to the Allies, but this severely damaged the country's economy, which led to severe inflation. The struggling economy and negative feelings towards the democratic government increased the popularity of the nationalist Nazi Party, so Hitler planned a coup against the state government of Bavaria in the hope that it would eventually bring down the central government in Berlin.

On 8 November, Nazi forces surrounded the Munich beer hall where Bavarian government officials were meeting. Hitler burst in with a group of Nazi storm troopers and declared that the national revolution had begun. At gunpoint, the leaders agreed to support Hitler's new regime.

The next day, the Bavarian leaders ordered a rapid suppression of the Nazis. Government troops surrounded the main Nazi force occupying the War Ministry building, and Hitler led a march to try and rally support. There was a standoff between 3,000 Nazi marchers and 100 armed policemen that saw 16 Nazis and three policemen killed. Three days later, Hitler was arrested and then subsequently convicted of treason. He was sentenced to five years in prison, where he penned *Mein Kampf*.

DEN HELLSTEN STERN AM HIMMEL SUCHEND
SUPER
Jettenburg

Despite its size, the Berlin Wall was erected overnight

09

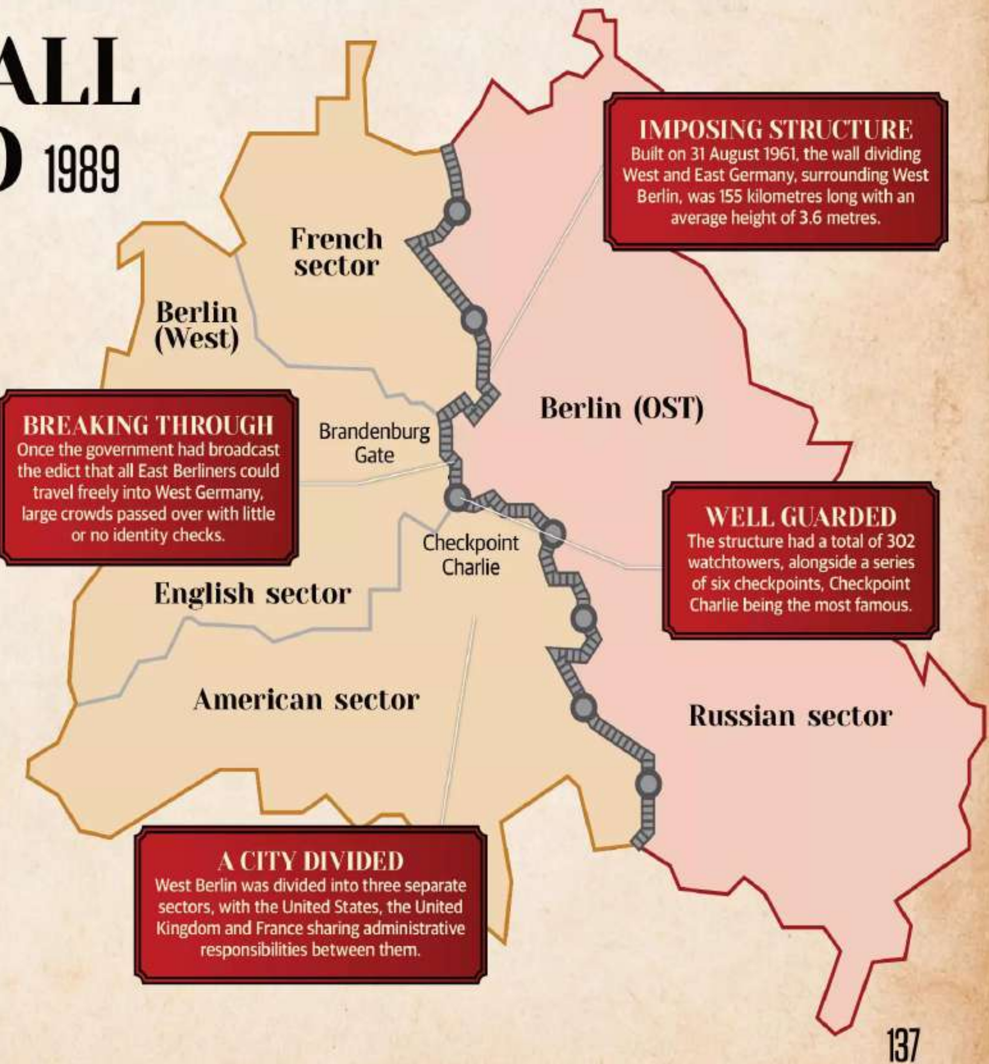
BERLIN WALL BREACHED 1989

Following the end of World War II in 1945, Germany was split into four distinct zones, each one administered by one of the main Allied forces. Berlin itself was divided in two, with West Berlin existing as a free city and East Berlin absorbed by the Soviets.

In 1961, the semi-autonomous communist government of the German Democratic Republic – under direction from the Kremlin – decreed that a wall would be erected to physically divide the city in two, effectively cutting East Berliners off from the rest of the Western world. But it wouldn't last forever.

For 28 years the Berlin Wall signified a city evolving in two very different directions. However, on 9 November 1989, after political unrest had put pressure on the East German Government, it was finally announced that citizens would be able to travel freely between the two halves of the city.

When the first East Berlin citizens passed the guard patrols into the free West Berlin, it was the start of the breaking up of the Eastern Bloc and the first steps toward a unified Germany that would see it become one of the most robust economic powers in Europe.



IMPOSING STRUCTURE
Built on 31 August 1961, the wall dividing West and East Germany, surrounding West Berlin, was 155 kilometres long with an average height of 3.6 metres.

BREAKING THROUGH
Once the government had broadcast the edict that all East Berliners could travel freely into West Germany, large crowds passed over with little or no identity checks.

WELL GUARDED
The structure had a total of 302 watchtowers, alongside a series of six checkpoints, Checkpoint Charlie being the most famous.

A CITY DIVIDED
West Berlin was divided into three separate sectors, with the United States, the United Kingdom and France sharing administrative responsibilities between them.

10 DISNEY BECOMES AN FBI INFORMANT 1940

You may not associate Walt Disney with the secret service or picture him in cahoots with sophisticated spies, but on 10 November 1940 the famous film producer became an informer working with the FBI until his death in 1966.

This secret side of the father of Mickey Mouse was kept quiet until 1993, when classified documents were published under the Freedom of Information Act. Disney's role with the FBI involved gathering information about suspected Hollywood subversives. He seemed to have a close relationship with FBI director J Edgar Hoover, because Hoover allowed him to film in the FBI headquarters in Washington in return for the information.

In 1954, Disney was made full Special Agent in Charge Contact, which is a title given only to very reliable informants. He would continue to serve the FBI until his death at the age of 65 in California in December 1966.

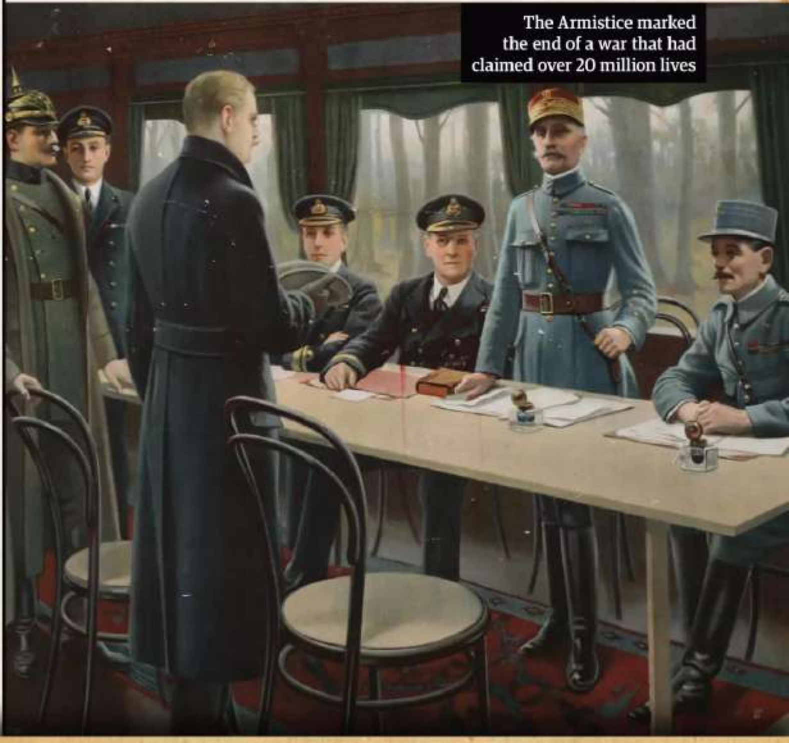
Edgar Hoover wears a Mickey Mouse mask

11 THE GREAT WAR FINALLY ENDS 1918

At the beginning of 1918, the conflict that would come to be known as World War I was moving in favour of Germany and Kaiser Wilhelm II. The routing of Russia on the Eastern Front and its humiliating withdrawal from the war, coupled with a naval campaign that was throttling the British war effort, had left the Allies on the back foot. Germany and the Central Powers were poised to claim victory.

However, what should have been a swift victory in the Michael Offensive, in which Germany aggressively drove the Allies back across the Somme, turned into a decisive failure as Britain and France launched a counterattack. With the fresh influx of US troops, the British blockade of key German ports and the rise of tank and aerial warfare, Germany was forced to agree to an armistice that effectively brought the war to close.

It would be the leaders of the German Army that would concede defeat, forcing the kaiser to abdicate on 9 November 1918. Two days later, the Armistice was signed, the guns of either side fell silent and the Great War finally came to an end.



The Armistice marked the end of a war that had claimed over 20 million lives

12

1905

NORWAY CHOOSES A MONARCHY

A 79 per cent majority of people vote for a monarchy instead of a republic as a referendum is held a few months after the country's independence from Sweden.

1912

BODY OF ROBERT SCOTT FOUND

The frozen dead bodies of explorer Robert Falcon Scott and his two remaining companions are found after their fateful attempt to reach the South Pole.

1933

FIRST SNAPS OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

The first ever photograph of the mythical Loch Ness Monster is published in Scottish newspaper *The Daily Record*. The photo was taken by local resident Hugh Gray.

1980

SATURN ON FILM

The space probe Voyager 1 reaches the second biggest planet in the solar system after a three-year journey. The rings are discovered to be much more complex than previously thought.

1984

END OF THE POUND NOTE

After 150 years, the English £1 note is withdrawn in favour of coins. A small amount of £1 notes can still be found in Scotland and Northern Ireland today.

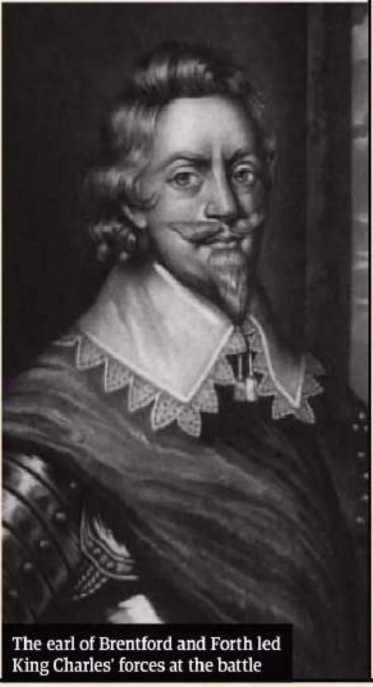
13

BATTLE OF TURNHAM GREEN 1642

After the battle of Edgehill in the English Civil War, the Royalist army advanced towards London along the Thames valley. The battle had resulted in a standoff between the forces of King Charles I and the Parliamentarian army, which was commanded by the earl of Essex.

The Parliamentarians gained an important victory by blocking the Royalists' journey into London, and the standoff forced Charles and his army to retreat to Oxford.

Turnham Green is now surrounded by the urban development of Greater London. However, parts of Turnham Green and Acton Green, which are now open green spaces, give a sense of the open ground where the battle took place.

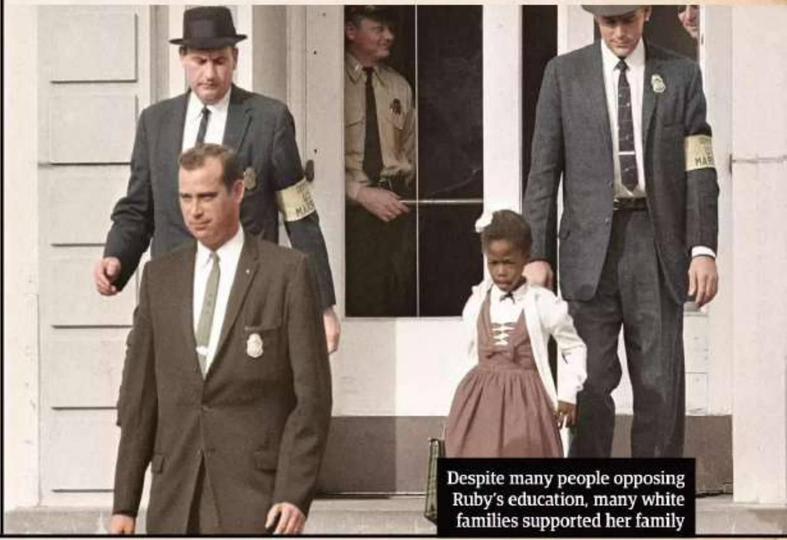


The earl of Brentford and Forth led King Charles' forces at the battle

14

THE DESEGREGATION OF SCHOOLS 1960

Ruby Bridges made history at the age of six when she became the first African-American child to attend an all-white elementary school in the South. Because of the volatility around the subject, she had to be escorted by US marshals dispatched by President Eisenhower for her safety. After Ruby's enrolment, many parents withdrew their children from the school, and all but one of the teachers refused to teach her.



Despite many people opposing Ruby's education, many white families supported her family

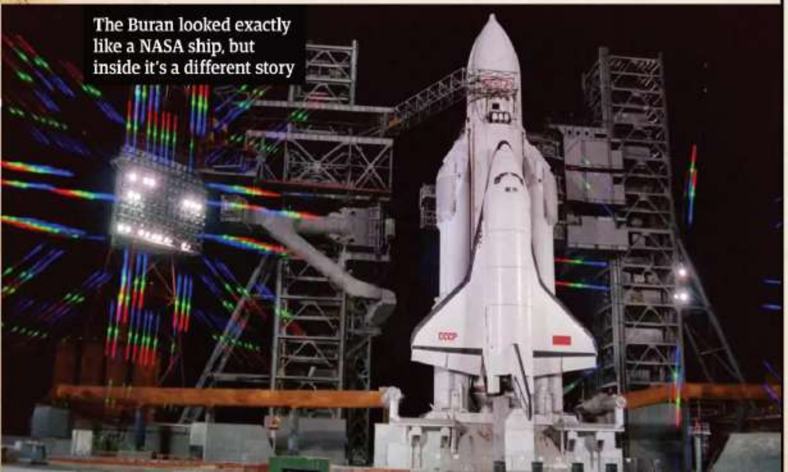
15

THE BURAN LAUNCHED 1988

November 1988 saw the Buran reusable orbiter make its first flight without a crew. It was the crowning achievement for the Soviet space programme, but this first flight also became its last.

After a top-secret development, on the unveiling of the Buran it was widely rumoured that it was an exact copy of the American Space Shuttle. At the beginning, the teams were tasked with creating something similar in technical capability, and although the aerodynamic aesthetics and dual-shaped wings were copied from NASA, the interior was different. Experts say by replacing NASA's traditional rockets and launch approach the Soviets actually created a far better system.

The launch came around the end of the Cold War, but by now the Soviets were more worried about their crumbling economy than outdoing the US, so no further spending was made on the Buran or any other space programme.



The Buran looked exactly like a NASA ship, but inside it's a different story

16

FIRST WOMEN'S FOOTBALL WORLD CUP 1991

On 30 June 1988, FIFA finally announced what women around the world had been waiting for: the first ever women's football world cup competition. After years of unofficial and semi-official contests, women now had one on par with one of the highest male football accolades.

The first tournament took place in China in 1991, with 12 teams from around the world going to head to head. The United States emerged as the winners, defeating Norway 2-1 in the final. Since then, they have won three further world cups out of the seven that have taken place to date.

Contests take place every four years, with the host country usually changing each time. To date, the United States, France, Canada, Germany, China and Sweden have all taken a turn at hosting.

The US team of 1991

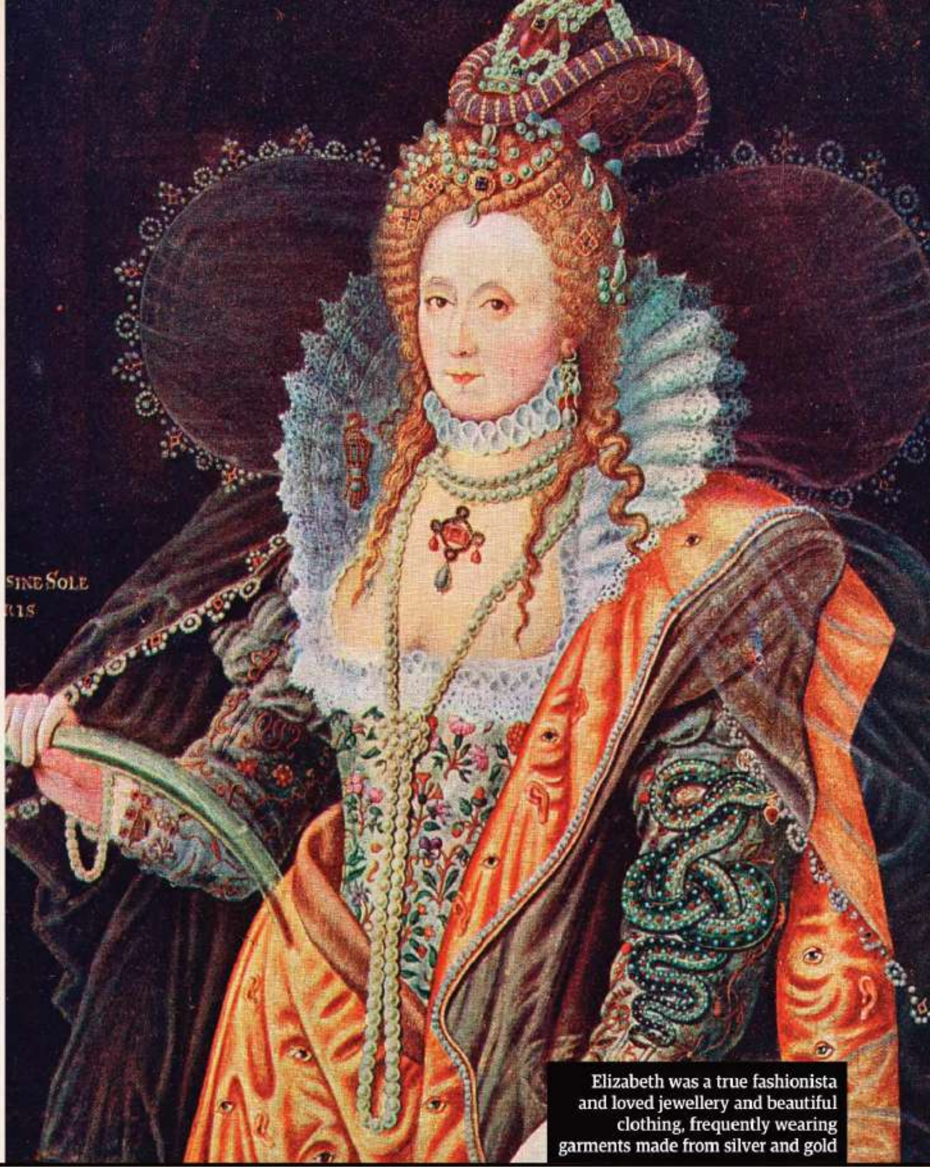
17 ELIZABETH I ASCENDS THE THRONE 1558

When Queen Mary I died childless in 1558, the throne fell to her younger sister, Elizabeth. She was a long-ruling queen and held her position for 44 years until her dying breath in 1603. However, she was faced with a number of problems that had been created by Mary when she first took up her position.

England was at war with France and there was great tension between different religious factions after her predecessor had tried to restore Roman Catholicism across England by any means. The execution of 300 Protestants had given the former queen the nickname of 'Bloody Mary'.

Elizabeth acted quickly to resolve both matters and with the help of her advisor, William Cecil, she was able to end the war in France. She established Protestantism in England and called for the Act of Supremacy, which re-established the Church of England, and the Act of Uniformity, creating a common prayer book. She moderated the religious unrest in her country, but it led to the Roman Catholic Church excommunicating her in 1570.

For the majority of her reign it was a relatively peaceful time and she created an environment in England where arts flourished. Elizabeth loved music and the arts, playing the lute and enjoying dancing and watching plays. She supported the works of William Shakespeare and Christopher Marlowe, and artists honoured her through poetry and paintings.



Elizabeth was a true fashionista and loved jewellery and beautiful clothing, frequently wearing garments made from silver and gold

18 SOJOURNER TRUTH BORN 1797

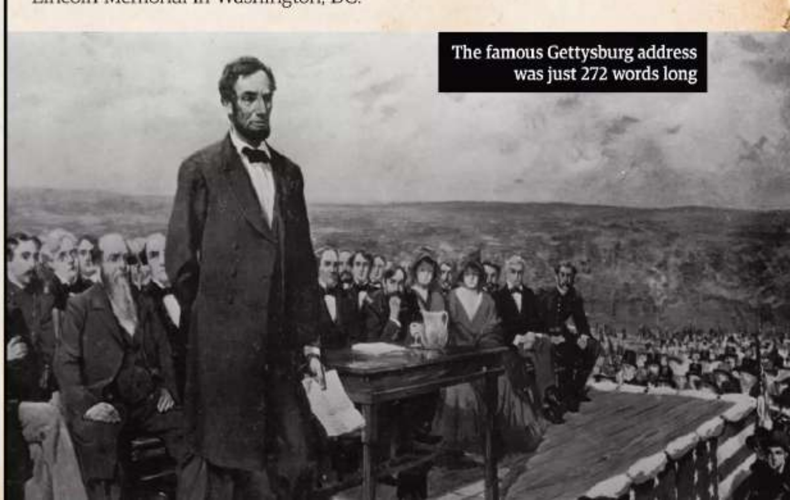
"Ain't I a woman?" Born Isabella Baumfree, Sojourner Truth was an African-American activist probably best known for her speech on racial inequalities in 1851 at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention. Born into slavery, her date of birth can only be estimated, but it's thought to be on 18 November 1797.

In 1826 she made a daring escape from her dire situation with her infant daughter. She then devoted the rest of her life to ending slavery and helped to recruit black troops for the Union Army during the Civil War. Despite abolition being her main focus, she also supported many other issues like prison reform, property rights and universal suffrage. She fought for political equality for all women and berated the abolitionist community for not seeking civil rights for both black men and women. Truth met and spoke to President Abraham Lincoln more than once about her experiences and beliefs, and she continued to agitate for change even after Lincoln's groundbreaking Emancipation Declaration in 1865.

Truth devoted the rest of her life to ending slavery

19 LINCOLN GIVES THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS 1863

"Four score and seven years ago" - the six famous words that started President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, which became one of the most famous speeches in American history. It was first given at the dedication of the military cemetery at the Gettysburg battlefield in Pennsylvania, where soldiers had died in battle in the July of 1863. In just 272 words, the 16th president of the United States articulated the meaning of the American Civil War to a weary public and honoured the soldiers who had fought at Gettysburg. He said, "That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain - that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom." His full speech is now carved into the wall of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC.



The famous Gettysburg address was just 272 words long

Elizabeth used ration coupons to buy her wedding dress

20 WEDDING OF ELIZABETH II & PRINCE PHILIP 1947

Princess Elizabeth's parents didn't exactly approve of the pairing, and her father, King George VI, was concerned about British opinion of his daughter marrying a Greek prince. The king reportedly also found Philip rather irritating.

Elizabeth and Philip were distant cousins and first met at a wedding in 1934 when Elizabeth was just 13. After their second meeting in 1939, the pair began to exchange letters. Seven years later, in 1946, they got engaged in secret, but the formal engagement was delayed until Elizabeth turned 21 in 1947.

They married at Westminster Abbey in front of 2,000 guests and it was broadcast on radio to 200 million listeners from around the world. Elizabeth's wedding dress was designed by Norman Hartnell and the now queen actually had to use ration coupons to buy the material.

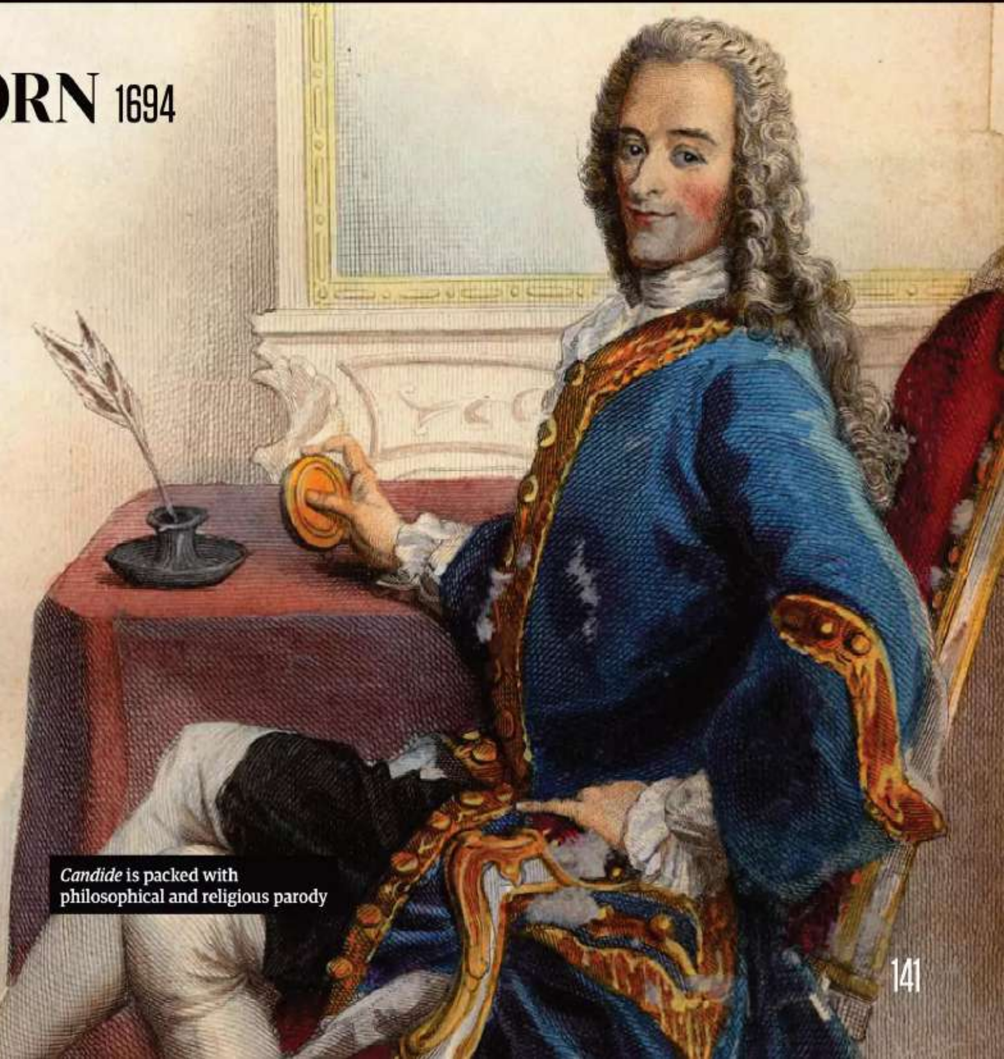
The couple went on to have four children: Prince Charles in 1948, Princess Anne in 1950, Prince Andrew in 1960 and Prince Edward in 1964. When King George VI died in February 1952, the family - then consisting of Elizabeth, Philip and their first two children - was changed forever as Elizabeth became queen.

21 VOLTAIRE BORN 1694

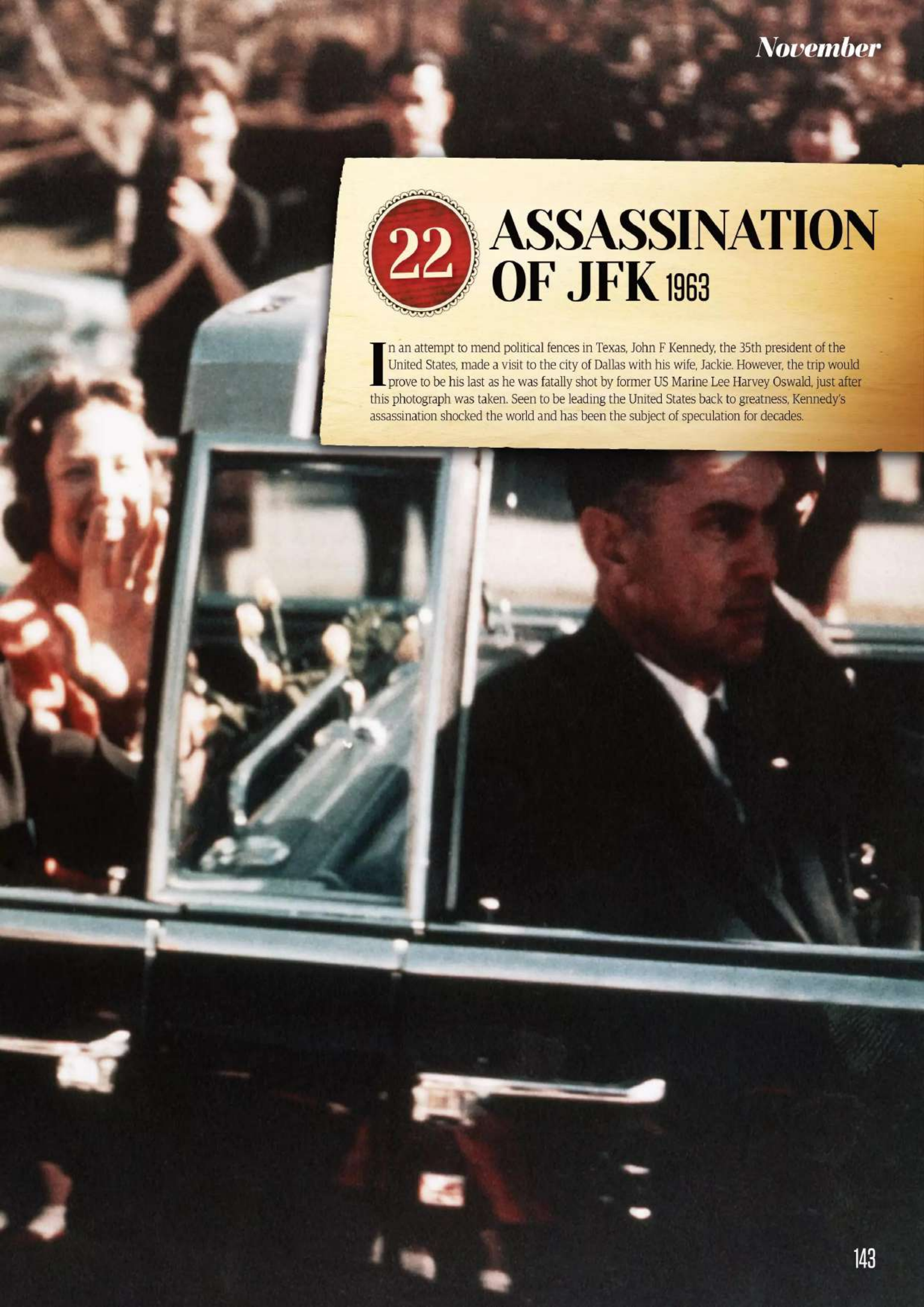
Born François-Marie Arouet in Paris to a prosperous family, Voltaire is seen as one of France's greatest Enlightenment writers. He received a classical education and later in life wrote plays and poetry as well as historical and philosophical works. His most famous works include the tragic play *Zaïre*, *The Age of Louis XIV* and the satirical novella *Candide*.

Voltaire found inspiration from philosophers such as Sir Isaac Newton, Francis Bacon and John Locke. His most well-known poetry includes *The Henriade* and *The Maid of Orleans*. *Candide*, meanwhile, is packed with philosophical and religious parody, but there is still great debate over whether he was making a statement about pessimistic philosophy or if he was trying to get people to be more active in the improvement of society.

In 1716, Voltaire was exiled to Tulle for making fun of the duc d'Orleans, but on his return to Paris in 1717 he was arrested and exiled to the Bastille for a year for libelous poetry. He was sent to the Bastille again in 1726 for arguing with the Chevalier de Rohan and was then exiled to England. He then spent some years in Prussia then Geneva and Fereny.



Candide is packed with philosophical and religious parody



22

ASSASSINATION OF JFK 1963

In an attempt to mend political fences in Texas, John F Kennedy, the 35th president of the United States, made a visit to the city of Dallas with his wife, Jackie. However, the trip would prove to be his last as he was fatally shot by former US Marine Lee Harvey Oswald, just after this photograph was taken. Seen to be leading the United States back to greatness, Kennedy's assassination shocked the world and has been the subject of speculation for decades.

23

BILLY THE KID BORN 1859

By the time he was shot dead at the age of 21, he had allegedly killed 27 men

In a poor Irish neighbourhood in New York City's east side, Henry McCarthy was born, although he later re-named himself William H Bonney and earned the nickname 'Billy the Kid'.

As a child he travelled west from New York with his brother, mother and her partner to Indiana. They later moved further west, but in 1874 Billy's mother died of lung cancer. Billy then took off alone to New Mexico, where he worked on a ranch.

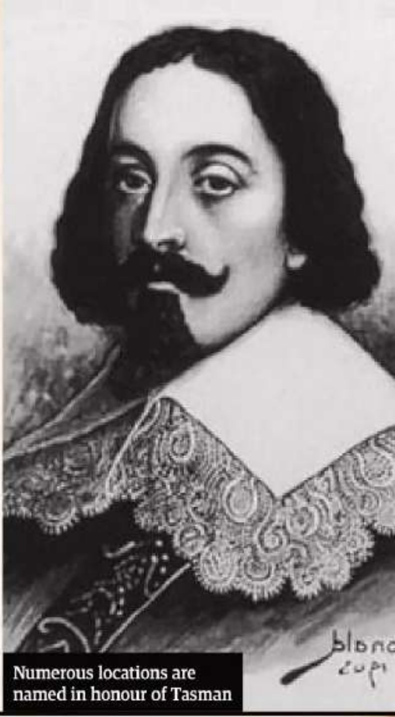
It is in 1876 that he is said to have made his first kills - a group of reservation Apache Indians in the Guadalupe Mountains. Apparently it didn't take long before he killed another and this time it was a blacksmith in Camp Grant, Arizona. His new reputation and nickname got him the job of bodyguard for John Tunstall, an English-born rancher. When a rival gang killed Tunstall, Billy became involved in the Lincoln County War.

Violence flared between gangs and full-on warfare began. After more than two years on the run Billy was arrested and sentenced to hang in 1881. Two weeks after his sentence in April 1881, he acquired a gun and shot his way out of jail. On 14 July he was finally tracked down by Lincoln Sheriff Garrett, who surprised him in the dark before firing a fatal bullet into his chest.

24

FIRST SIGHTING OF TASMANIA 1642

Aboard the Heemskerck and Zeehaen, Abel Janszoon Tasman caught his first glimpse of the west coast mountains of Tasmania. Tasman was a maritime explorer and servant of the Dutch East India Company. They had sailed from Batavia in search of undiscovered land in the South Pacific. He named it Van Diemen's Land on his first sighting. The fleet later landed on the Forestier Peninsula before sailing onwards via New Zealand and Tonga, making it the first circumnavigation of Australia.



Numerous locations are named in honour of Tasman

25

FIDEL CASTRO DIES 2016

At the age of 90, Fidel Castro was laid to rest in Santiago de Cuba after ruling Cuba for almost 50 years. The leader established the first communist state in the Western Hemisphere after overthrowing the military dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

Castro had a somewhat hostile relationship with the United States and in 1960 nationalised all American-owned businesses, including oil and casinos, which prompted the United States to end diplomatic relations and impose a trade embargo. He closed down opposition newspapers, jailed thousands of political opponents, abolished private business and limited the amount of land a person could own.

Under his rule, however, illiteracy was reduced, racism was stamped out and full employment was provided. He also brought electricity to the countryside, and public healthcare and education were improved.

Castro survived numerous assassination attempts by the CIA throughout his life

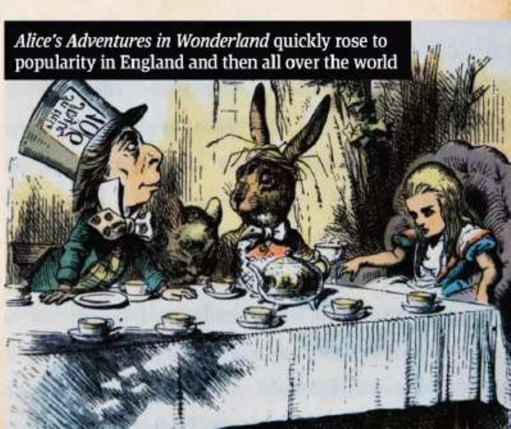
26

ALICE IN WONDERLAND PUBLISHED 1865

In the summer of 1862, Charles Dodgson (who wrote under the name Lewis Carroll) took three of the dean of Christ Church's daughters along with Robinson Ducksworth on a boat trip. During the trip he told the children a story called 'Alice's adventure underground'. Alice, being one of the named characters, pleaded that Dodgson write out the story for her. He completed it in February 1863, and when novelist Henry Kingsley saw the manuscript he urged Dodgson to seek publication. Dodgson continued to work from the manuscript and extended it into what was to become *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

The book was published on commission by MacMillan & Co and 2,000 copies were ordered to be printed by Oxford University Press. However, after 50 were complete, Tenniel told Dodgson he was not satisfied with the pictures and the book was withdrawn. Eventually, in November 1865 a second batch of 2,000 were printed using a new printer - Richard Clag of Bungay.

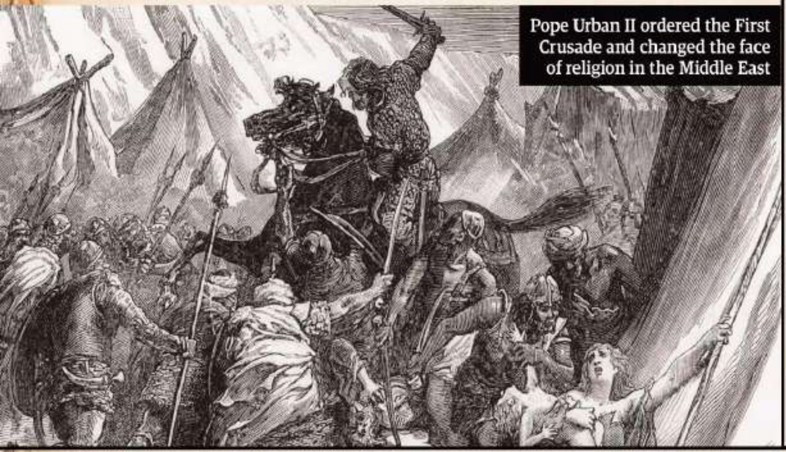
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland quickly rose to popularity in England and then all over the world



27

FIRST CRUSADE DECLARED 1095

With a cry of "Dues vult" ("God wills it"), Pope Urban II ordered the First Crusade, giving one of the most influential speeches of the Middle Ages. The speech called rise to the Crusades, urging Christians in Europe to wage war against the Muslims in order to reclaim the Holy Land. Since the 6th century, Christians had frequently made pilgrimages to the birthplace of their religion, but when the Seljuk Turks took hold of Jerusalem, Christians were banned from the Holy City.



Pope Urban II ordered the First Crusade and changed the face of religion in the Middle East

28

ABDICATION OF WILHELM II 1918

The German kaiser and king of Prussia was forced to abdicate in 1918, having ruled for 30 years. During a time of widespread unrest in Germany and a naval mutiny, civilian political leaders were convinced that the kaiser had to abdicate to restore order. His abdication was officially announced on 9 November 1918, before he had agreed to it.

Hitler, the future führer of Germany, blamed Wilhelm for Germany's defeat in World War I, and Wilhelm in term was reportedly shocked by the Nazis' underhand tactics. Perhaps fortunately for Wilhelm, he would die in 1941, four years before Germany's second shattering military defeat.

In 1938, Wilhelm apparently stated that he was ashamed to be German

29

SAND CREEK MASSACRE 1864

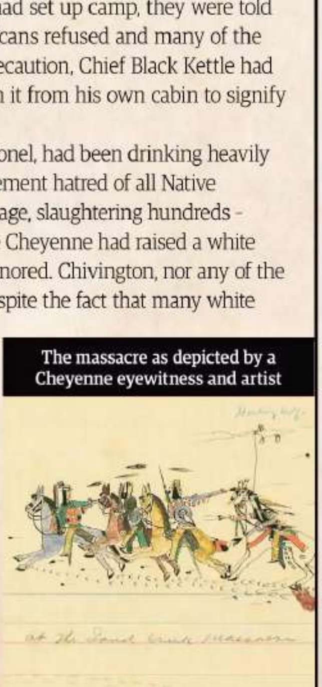
Tensions ran high in Colorado, where the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes had once freely roamed. After an 1861 treaty, they found themselves with less than one-tenth of the land they had once lived on. To defend themselves against white settlers and troops, the tribes had been actively hostile, attacking any and all US interests.

In 1864, the US government suggested a peace talk and over 750 people made their way there. However, after they had set up camp, they were told to move somewhere else. The Native Americans refused and many of the fighting-age men went out hunting. As a precaution, Chief Black Kettle had flown a US flag and a white flag underneath it from his own cabin to signify that he was friendly and prevent an attack.

However, John Chivington, a US Army colonel, had been drinking heavily the night before and was known for his vehement hatred of all Native Americans. He and his men attacked the village, slaughtering hundreds - mostly women, children and the elderly. The Cheyenne had raised a white flag as soon as the attack began but it was ignored. Chivington, nor any of the perpetrators, were ever brought to justice, despite the fact that many white Americans were horrified at his actions.

The massacre had a profound effect on the remaining Cheyenne community. One woman who had survived the massacre, Mochi, became a warrior soon afterwards. Other survivors carried out successful retaliation attacks on forts and white settlers throughout the area.

The massacre as depicted by a Cheyenne eyewitness and artist


at the Sand Creek Massacre

30

WINSTON CHURCHILL BORN

1874

Born at Blenheim Place in Oxfordshire, England, Winston Churchill would rise to become one of Britain's top politicians. Hailing from a prestigious family, after his father's death in 1895 he joined the British Fourth Hussars. However, he resigned from his distinguished military career to pursue a political one and was elected to Parliament in 1900 as a Conservative. In 1904 he joined the liberals and was made Britain's first lord of the admiralty in 1911, where he worked to prepare the British Navy for the war that he was anticipating would break out.

In 1915 he was, some say wrongly, blamed for the disastrous Dardanelles and Gallipoli campaigns and was excluded from the war coalition government. He resigned but returned to politics in 1917.

After the start of World War II, Churchill was called back to his role as lord of the admiralty and just eight months later replaced the futile Neville Chamberlain. Churchill rallied the British people, creating an unyielding resistance, and he has since topped many Greatest Briton polls.

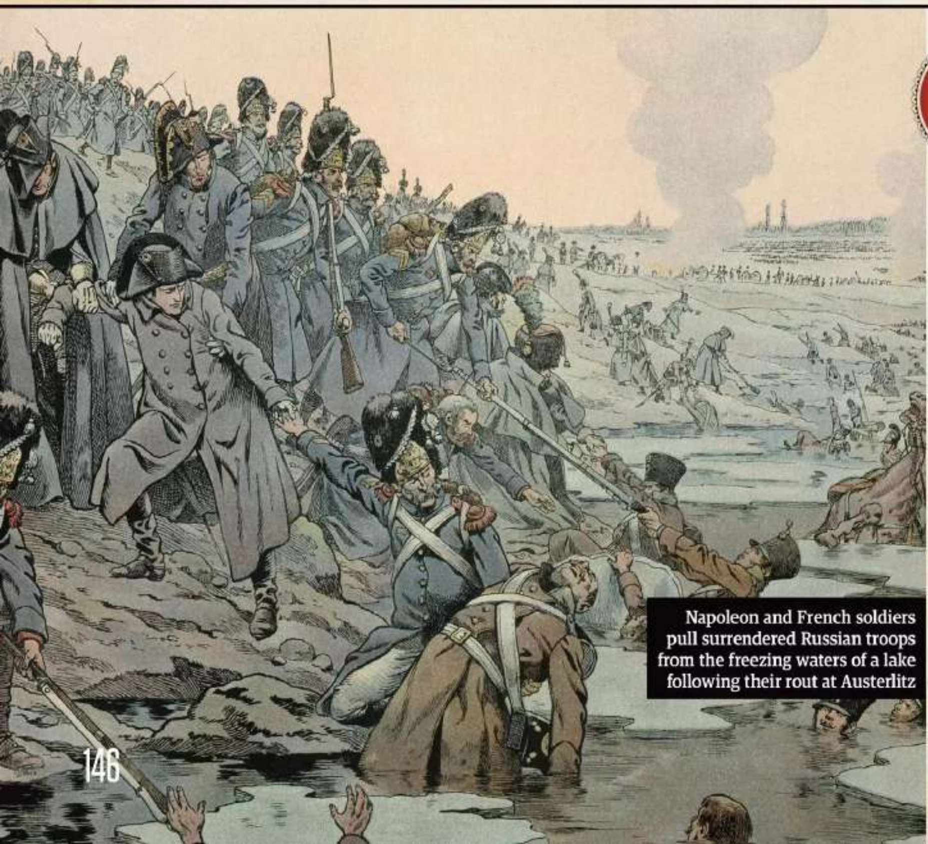
Churchill promised the world that Britain would "never surrender"

DECEMBER

01 ROSA PARKS REFUSES TO MOVE 1955

A seamstress and secretary in the local office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Alabama, city bus to a white man as local law prescribed. Parks was also required to move to the back of the bus where black citizens were obliged to find seating. When she did neither, she was taken into police custody. Four days later, Civil Rights leader Dr Martin Luther King Jr delivered a stirring call to action and a successful boycott of the city's public transportation system lasted 381 days, eventually leading to a decision by the US Supreme Court in 1956 banning segregation on public transportation across the United States. This series of events is considered the birth of the Civil Rights Movement in America.

Following her arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a city bus, Rosa Parks is fingerprinted at the Montgomery jail



Napoleon and French soldiers pull surrendered Russian troops from the freezing waters of a lake following their rout at Austerlitz

02 BATTLE OF AUSTERLITZ 1805

During the War of the Third Coalition, French emperor Napoleon Bonaparte achieved perhaps the greatest military victory of his career near the Bohemian village of Austerlitz. Also known as the Battle of the Three Emperors because Napoleon took on the armies of Russia and Austria led by Emperors Alexander I and Francis II respectively, Austerlitz was a masterpiece of manoeuvre, encirclement, deception and decisive action. Although his 73,000 troops were outnumbered by the 86,000 soldiers of the Coalition armies, Napoleon sent five corps on a flanking march through Franconia and northern Bavaria, forcing the surrender of 27,000 Austrian troops without firing a shot. Anticipating an Austrian move south, Napoleon observed enemy attacks that had weakened their defensive line, and French assaults shattered the enemy's centre. By afternoon, Coalition forces had been driven from the field, losing another 27,000 casualties. Austria agreed to the Treaty of Pressburg, withdrawing from the Third Coalition.

03

AGATHA CHRISTIE DISAPPEARS 1926

Her marriage to British businessman and soldier Archibald 'Archie' Christie disintegrating, famed mystery writer Agatha Christie disappeared just before 10pm without a trace. Her car was located parked above a chalk quarry with an expired driver's licence and clothing left inside. Her disappearance made headlines worldwide, and a substantial reward was offered for information. Ten days later, she was located at the Swan Hydropathic Hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire, registered under an assumed name.

No satisfactory explanation for the disappearance has ever emerged, and the author never mentioned the strange occurrence in her autobiography.

Mystery novelist Agatha Christie disappeared for ten days and no explanation followed

04

FRANCISCO FRANCO BORN 1892

Francisco Franco, Caudillo of Spain from 1939 until his death in 1975, was born in Ferrol, Galicia, in northwestern Spain. He rose to prominence during the Rif War with Rif separatists in North Africa and led Spain's African Army in a revolt against the republic in the summer of 1936. Within a week, the new 'Nationalist' army controlled one-third of Spain, igniting the three-year Spanish Civil War. Emerging as the country's fascist absolute dictator, he steered a perilous path of neutrality through World War II. During his 40 years in power, Franco ruthlessly suppressed opposition and influenced the rise of anti-communist dictators elsewhere in the world.

Franco accepted Nazi assistance during the Spanish Civil War but refused to join the Axis in World War II

05

ROBERT WATSON-WATT DIES 1973

Watson-Watt's contribution to Allied victory in World War II was substantial

Known for his innovative work with radio direction finding and the development of radar, scientist Robert Watson-Watt died in Inverness, Scotland, at the age of 81. His interest in the topic began while seeking an improved method of tracking weather systems. During World War II, the introduction of his HF/DF system, nicknamed 'Huff-Duff', became instrumental in countering the Nazi U-boat threat during the Battle of the Atlantic. Throughout the war, he continued radar development with the War Ministry, and he was knighted in 1942. Many of his post-World War II years were spent in Canada and the United States.

06

ANGLO-IRISH TREATY IS SIGNED 1921

Concluded in the home of British prime minister David Lloyd George at 10 Downing Street in London, the Anglo-Irish Treaty ended the bloody Irish War of Independence and established the Irish Free State with the right of self-government as a dominion within the British Empire. The treaty also provided the recently constituted province of Northern Ireland with the right to remove itself from the Free State, something that it later took advantage of. The treaty took effect the following spring, and its terms were finally implemented on the first anniversary of its signing.

Representatives of Great Britain and Ireland signed the treaty on 6 December 1921

07 PEARL HARBOR 1941

The United States had so far managed to stay out of World War II. It had shut down any attempts by Great Britain to choose a side in the conflict and peace was prosperous for the country. But that was all about to change.

When morning broke over the islands of Hawaii on 7 December 1941, the Sun shone bright and the waters were calm. Meanwhile, 300 kilometres north of the archipelago, two battleships, three cruisers and six aircraft carriers waited just out of range of American radar systems. The fleet was Japanese and it had one mission: bomb Pearl Harbor.

At 6.10am, the first wave was ordered. Hundreds of aircraft took off from the carriers, headed for the island of Oahu. As they neared Hawaii, they weren't picked up by American radar thanks to mountains causing a dead zone. Months of planning had paid off and they had the element of surprise. At about 7.40am, Commander Mitso Fuschida slid back the canopy of his bomber - the signal to attack.

At 8am, they had reached their destination. With a shout from Fuschida of "Tora! Tora! Tora!", bombs and bullets rained down on the US Pacific Fleet that was stationed there, but the first major victory from the sky would come ten minutes later. At 8.10am, an 800-kilogram bomb hit the forward ammunition magazine of USS Arizona and the ship exploded. Over 1,000 men were trapped inside as the remains sank to the bottom of the harbour.

There were three waves of Japanese aircraft in total and the Americans on the ground in Oahu were enveloped in panic. US aircraft exploded before they could take off, sending airmen skidding across the ground. Those in the sea weren't having much luck either as Japanese torpedoes struck USS Enterprise and USS California.

The Americans did try their best to fight back. The five two-man mini submarines deployed by the Japanese fleet were taken out one by one and on land, Americans were firing at anything in the sky that was moving. Unfortunately, some of the targets they hit among the confusion were unarmed bombers that were arriving from the mainland.

At around 9.30am, the Japanese disappeared back over the horizon. Behind them was a trail of chaos and destruction, something that the Americans felt even more so when USS Shaw exploded soon after. The Japanese plan had gone exactly as it was supposed to.

Out of the chaos came some semblance of order. At 12.30pm, the Honolulu Police Department raided the Japanese embassy on Oahu only to find the diplomats burning documents. Fear settled in and agents were sent to the homes of Japanese-Americans to confiscate radios in case they were being used to coordinate more attacks.

Hospital staff struggled to cope with the casualties that the Japanese had left behind and rescuers worked day and night at the shipyard to save as many as possible from wreckages. As America took stock of what had happened, one thing was obvious - the people were no longer against joining World War II. When the proposal was put to Congress, only one member of the House of Representatives voted against it.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 was the event that would bring America into World War II

IN NUMBERS

3,581

US casualties at Pearl Harbor

68

civilians were killed in the raid

347

US aircraft were destroyed or damaged during the raid

29

Japanese planes were destroyed in the attack

32

of the 461 sailors trapped in the hull of the capsized Oklahoma were saved

1

Japanese prisoner was taken

The attack lasted

90

minutes

19

US warships and auxiliary ships were destroyed or damaged during the attacks

5

Japanese mini-subs also participated in the attack. Four were destroyed and one captured

08 DRAGON'S MAIDEN FLIGHT 2010

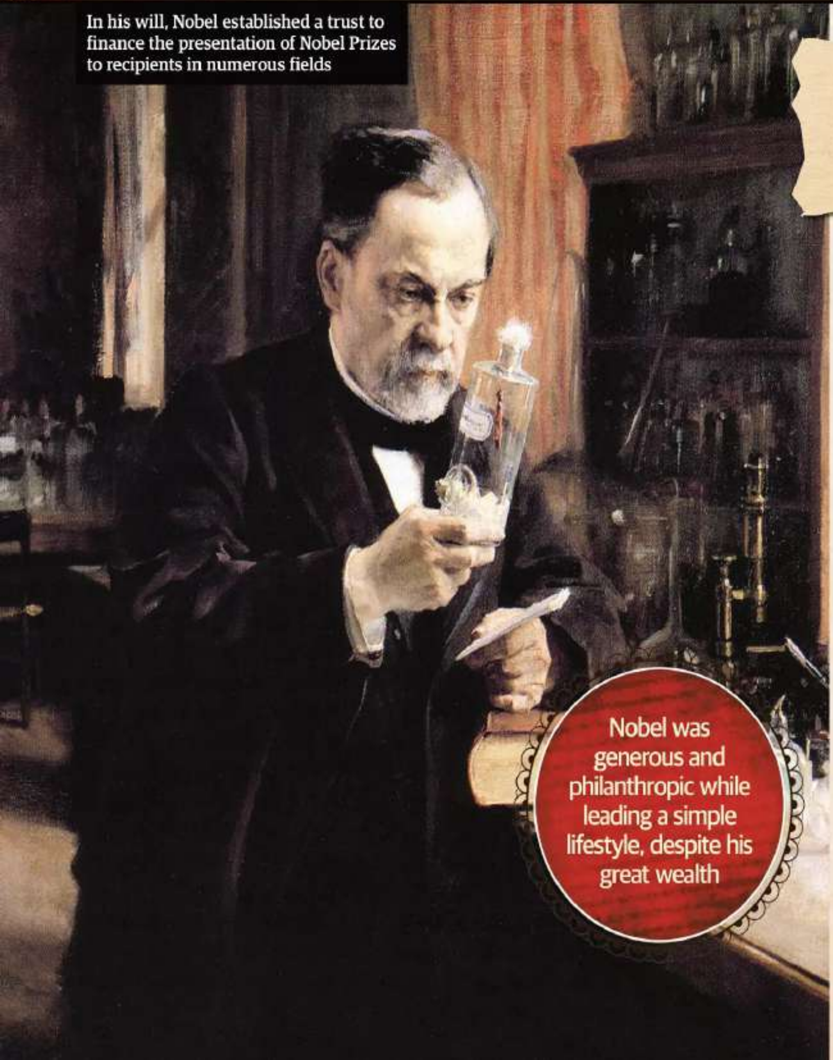
Dragon, a cargo spacecraft developed by SpaceX, a private company founded by wealthy entrepreneur Elon Musk in 2002, became the first privately funded vehicle of its type successfully launched and recovered from orbit. Launched from the two-stage Falcon 9 vehicle, Dragon completed its maiden flight without issue. Two years later, the spacecraft became the first commercial vehicle of its type to rendezvous with the International Space Station. By the autumn of 2012, Dragon was regularly delivering supplies to the International Space Station under contract with NASA.

The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and attached Dragon space vehicle lift off from Pad 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center

09 CLARENCE BIRDSEYE BORN 1886

Father of the frozen food industry, Clarence Birdseye was born in Brooklyn, New York. While on field assignment for the US Department of Agriculture with the Inuit people in what is now Canada, he learned to ice fish, discovering that "fast freezing" preserves fresh taste. He founded Birdseye Seafood Company in 1922 and perfected a method of freezing and packaging seafood, leading to the formation of General Seafood Corporation in 1925, and its subsequent relocation to Gloucester, Massachusetts. Four years later, he sold the company, the forerunner of General Foods Corporation, to investors for $22 million. With nearly 300 patents to his name, Birdseye died on 7 October 1956 at the age of 69.

An inventor and entrepreneur, Birdseye developed the fast freezing process the pioneered the modern frozen food industry


In his will, Nobel established a trust to finance the presentation of Nobel Prizes to recipients in numerous fields

Nobel was generous and philanthropic while leading a simple lifestyle, despite his great wealth

10 ALFRED NOBEL DIES 1896

Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel died in San Remo, Italy, at the age of 63. During his lifetime, he had been a noted chemist, businessman and industrialist who invented dynamite and amassed an empire of more than 90 production facilities manufacturing ammunition and explosives. Upon his death, his will specified that the bulk of his fortune should be placed in a trust for the establishment of international awards that have become the most coveted recognition in an array of fields: the Nobel Prizes.

The son of an inventor, Nobel learned the principles of explosives and engineering from his father. The family resided in Russia for several years until a business failure prompted a return to their native Sweden, where Nobel began experimenting with explosives, including the unstable liquid nitroglycerine. He discovered that the compound is absorbed by a porous rock called kieselguhr, and the resulting substance is much more stable. Naming the new explosive dynamite from the Greek word 'dynamis', meaning 'power', he received British and American patents by the late 1860s. He went on to purchase an ironworks that became the renowned Swedish armaments manufacturer Bofors and developed synthetic forms of leather and silk.

A lifelong bachelor, Nobel was fond of literature, took a paternalistic approach to those he employed, and hoped vainly that the destructive power of his explosive inventions would deter future wars. A year after being diagnosed with a heart condition, he died of a cerebral haemorrhage.

11 EDWARD VIII'S ABDICATION 1936

In one of the most scandalous royal events of the past 100 years, Edward VIII used his last act as king to abdicate from the British throne. The renegade monarch, always frustrated with the office he was unwillingly thrust into, followed his heart's desire to marry American socialite Wallis Simpson - but her lower social standing and the fact that she had been divorced twice stopped Edward from being able to marry her while he held the crown.

Edward had come to throne upon the death of his father, George V, who had steered his country through World War I and had rebranded the very German-sounding Saxe-Coburg and Gotha family into the Windsor dynasty that we know today to separate it from the Germans who were attacking them. During Edward's short kingship, however, a different approach was taken as the monarch visited Germany and was seen to be on somewhat friendly terms with the Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.

When Edward abdicated the throne, it passed to his younger brother, Prince Albert, Duke of York. However, Albert - or 'Bertie', as he was affectionately known - chose the regnal name of George to show a continuation of the royal line after his brother's abrupt abdication. He hadn't want the throne but thanks to the sense of duty instilled in him by his father, he took the crown anyway and ruled for almost 16 years. He was then followed by his eldest daughter, the current queen, Elizabeth II.

Edward's abdication caused animosity among his family. While he was made duke of Windsor, he lived abroad in France and the Bahamas. Perhaps saddest of all, no members of the royal family attended his wedding in France in 1937 but after his death, his body was brought back to Britain and buried beside the Frogmore Mausoleum at Windsor.

The relationship of the king and the divorced socialite was controversial and was the main reason for Edward's abdication

12 FRANK SINATRA BORN 1915

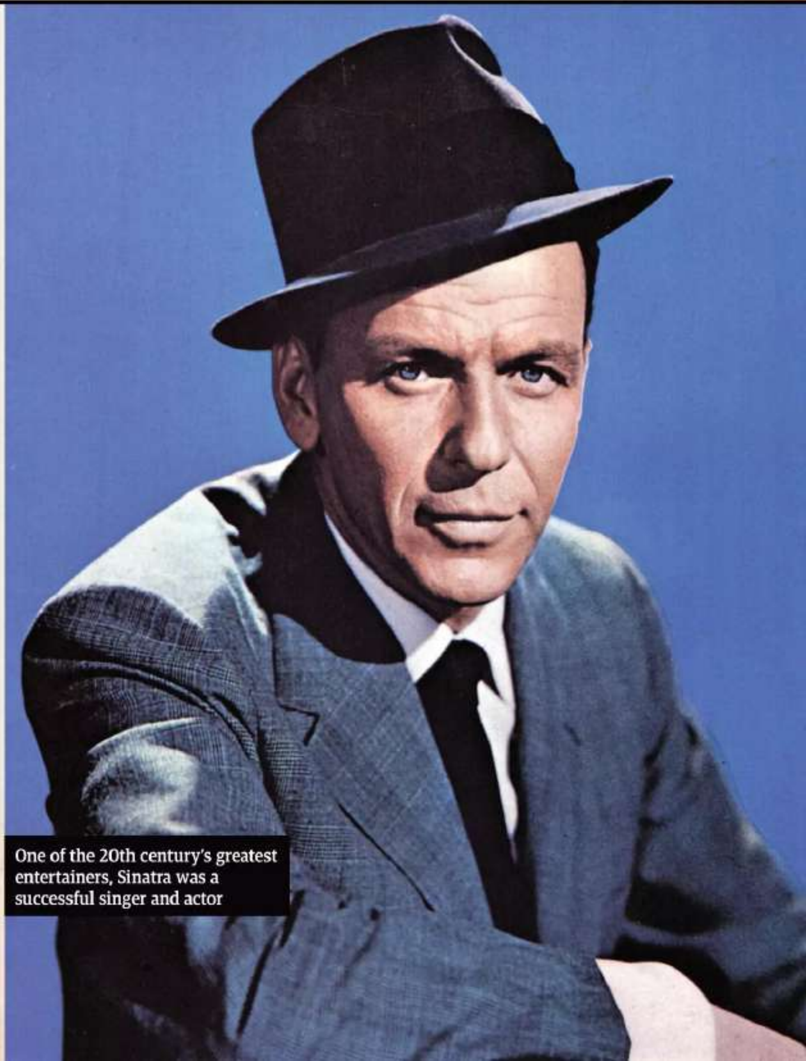
A son of Italian immigrants, Frank Sinatra was born in a poor neighbourhood in Hoboken, New Jersey. His father was a barkeeper, firefighter and boxer, while his mother worked as a midwife and was active in local Democratic Party politics. But from this rough-and-tumble upbringing, Sinatra rose to become of the most enduring entertainers of the 20th century.

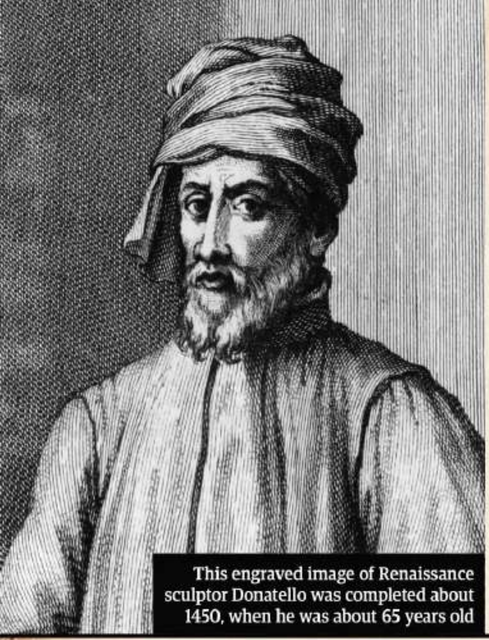
Although he never formally learned to read music, as a recording artist he is unsurpassed. He also found success as a dramatic actor, appearing in films such as *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* and *Come Blow Your Horn*. Some of his other screen credits include an Academy Award-winning performance in *From Here to Eternity*, along with *Guys and Dolls*, *Some Came Running*, *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Von Ryan's Express*.

He also developed a larger-than-life persona. As the leader of the famed Rat Pack, which included stars Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr, Peter Lawford and Joey Bishop, he earned the nicknames of 'Chairman of the Board' and 'Old Blue Eyes'. The group came to symbolise the hedonistic lifestyle of 1960s Hollywood and Las Vegas.

Sinatra was also a friend of President John F Kennedy and was even associated with organised crime figures like the notorious Sam Giancana. He married four times, most notably to actress Ava Gardner.

After getting his start in radio during the 1930s, Sinatra recorded numerous top-selling singles on the Columbia and Capitol record labels during a career that spanned seven decades. Among the best known are *All or Nothing at All*, *My Way*, *I've Got You Under My Skin*, and *One for my Baby*.


One of the 20th century's greatest entertainers, Sinatra was a successful singer and actor



This engraved image of Renaissance sculptor Donatello was completed about 1450, when he was about 65 years old

13

DONATELLO DIES 1466

One of the Renaissance's foremost sculptors, Donatello died in Florence, aged about 80 years. The son of a member of the influential Arte della Lana, the wool guild of Florence, he was born in the city around 1386. He apprenticed with early Renaissance sculptor and metalsmith Lorenzo Ghiberti. He received numerous commissions for his work, including the patronage of the powerful de' Medici family, which financed his most famous work, a 1430 bronze David standing just over five feet tall. Donatello is known for extraordinary skill in portraying emotion and visual perspective. One of his most famous sculptures, *Gattamelata*, an equestrian bronze, influenced sculpture for centuries to come.

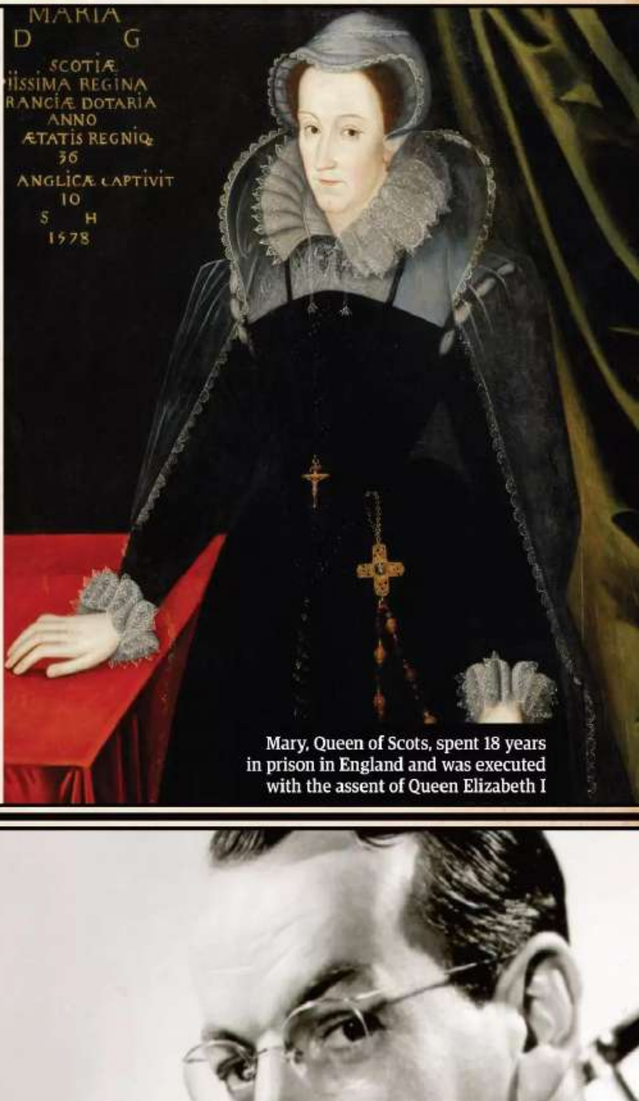
14

MARY BECOMES QUEEN OF SCOTS 1542

The infant Mary, daughter of King James V, became queen of Scotland upon her father's death just six days after her birth. Spending much of her childhood in France at the court of King Henry II while her country was ruled by regency, she inherited Tudor blood through her grandmother. With the death of Henry VIII, she became second in line to the English throne when her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I, was crowned. The Roman Catholic Mary returned to Scotland in 1561 and as Catholic conspirators in England considered Elizabeth illegitimate, she became a threat to her Protestant cousin.

The official religion of Scotland was now Protestantism, and many of Mary's subjects saw her faith as "foreign". Nonetheless, she maintained a policy of religious tolerance. Her unwise marriage to cousin Henry Stuart, Earl of Darnley, another Tudor, raised the ire of the English queen and powerful Scottish nobles, who feared that Darnley would try and rise to power. The dastardly Darnley was murdered in 1567, while Mary carried on an adulterous affair with James Hepburn, Earl of Bothwell. She married Bothwell, but he was later exiled and imprisoned.

Mary herself was imprisoned and deposed by the Scottish nobility, her one-year-old son James I becoming king. She escaped, seeking refuge in England, but Elizabeth still considered her a threat. Mary was imprisoned for a further 18 years but her Catholicism spurred a movement among English Catholics to assassinate the English monarch and replace her with Mary. When the plot was uncovered, Mary was tried for conspiracy. She was subsequently beheaded at Fotheringhay Castle on 8 February 1587 – after her cousin had signed her death warrant.



Mary, Queen of Scots, spent 18 years in prison in England and was executed with the assent of Queen Elizabeth I

15

GLENN MILLER DIES 1944

When American bandleader Glenn Miller took off in a small plane from RAF Twinwood Farm in Clapham, England, no one thought anything was going to go wrong. He was en route to entertain American soldiers in France during World War II when his plane disappeared in foul weather over the English Channel.

No trace has ever been found - Miller and the pilot were presumed dead. Miller had joined the service in 1942 and held the rank of major in the US Army Air Forces.

His orchestra was immensely popular during the Big Band era with hits such as *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, *A String of Pearls* and *In the Mood*, among others.

Although numerous theories have been proposed, his disappearance still remains a mystery to this day.

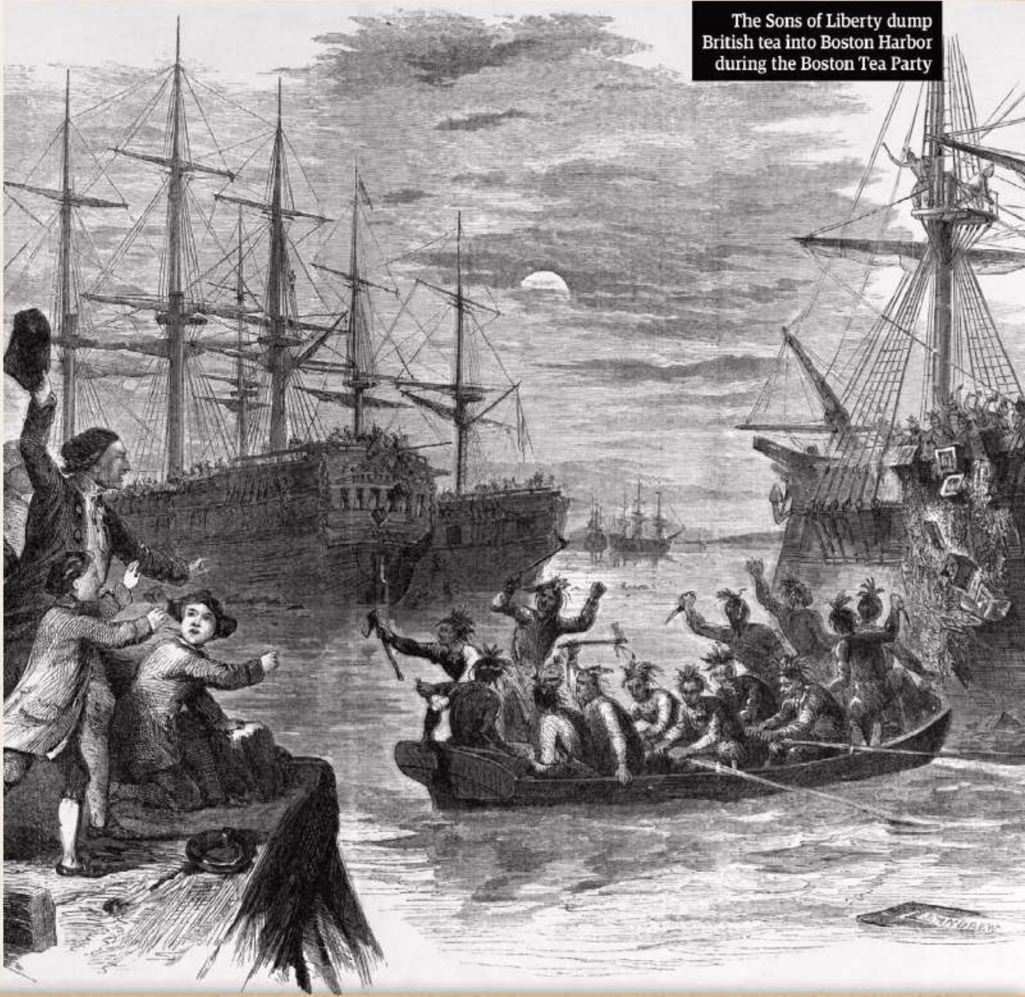
The plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller disappeared without a trace over the English Channel in December 1944

16 BOSTON TEA PARTY 1773

In an act of rebellion, members of the Sons of Liberty, a militant patriot group, dressed as Native Americans and boarded three British cargo ships, Dartmouth, Eleanor and Beaver, in Boston Harbor, and dumped chests of tea into the water below. The so-called Boston Tea Party protested the Tea Act of 1773 and the tax on tea levied by the British Parliament in London.

The tea tax was the lone remnant of the hated Townshend Acts enacted in 1767 and 1768 to recover French and Indian War expenses and subsidise British troops in North America protecting against incursions from the French and hostile Indians. Following the Boston Massacre of 1770, Parliament had repealed all the Townshend duties except the hated tax on tea. Three years later, the Tea Act was meant to prop up the ailing East India Company by lowering taxes on its tea imports below those of competitors – even undercutting black market prices. The Act created a virtual monopoly for the East India Company. Colonial propagandists incited unrest after the Boston Massacre, pointing to the remaining tax and the Tea Act as continuing affronts. When their anger reached a crescendo, 60 Sons of Liberty acted under the cover of darkness.

In retaliation, parliament passed the Coercive Acts of 1774, closing the port of Boston, making British soldiers immune from colonial justice if accused of a crime and requiring colonists to quarter British soldiers serving in North America in their own homes. But the measures pushed Britain and the colonies closer to war.


The Sons of Liberty dump British tea into Boston Harbor during the Boston Tea Party

IN NUMBERS

3 ships carrying East India Company tea were anchored in Boston Harbor

Each ship was carrying **114** chests of tea

The contents of the 342 chests of tea would have brewed **19** million cups

A **4th** tea ship had run aground on Cape Cod and never reached Boston Harbor

The average American colonist consumed **2–3** cups of tea per day

3,000,000 American colonists purchased about **£2,000,000** of tea a year

The tea dumped into Boston Harbor is valued today at £92,000 or roughly **$1 million**

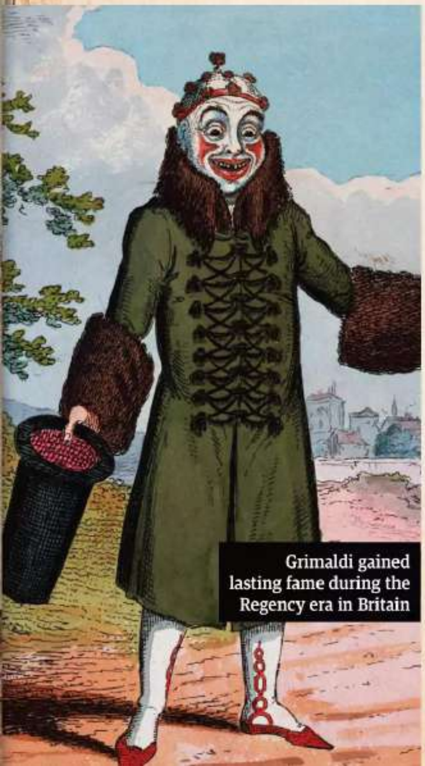
Enough tea was destroyed during the Boston Tea Party to fill **18.5** million tea bags

17 WRIGHT BROTHERS' PLANE TAKES FLIGHT 1903

Wilbur Wright watched on as his brother, Orville, piloted the 'Wright Flyer' during the first successful sustained powered flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Although heavier aircraft had successfully launched before this, the brothers had achieved the first controlled, powered flight and travelled a distance of just over 37 metres. In later years, the launching technique used by the brothers has made some question this accolade.

The brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina

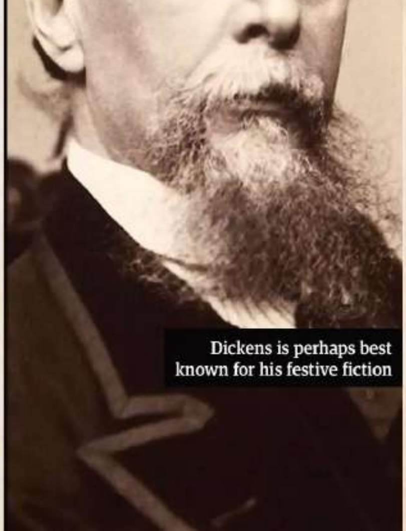
18 JOSEPH GRIMALDI BORN 1778



Grimaldi gained lasting fame during the Regency era in Britain

The foremost stage actor of his time in Great Britain, Joseph Grimaldi was born in Clare Market, Westminster, London, to a family of performers. His first stage appearance was at the age of two with his father at the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London in late 1780. During his career, Grimaldi most notably expanded the role of Clown, performed many times in the harlequinade genre of productions then popular in the country. He wore distinctive makeup and performed dazzling routines that included dancing and physical comedy. Although he earned a tremendous amount of money, he died a destitute alcoholic at the age of 58 in 1837.

19 A CHRISTMAS CAROL FIRST PUBLISHED 1843



Dickens is perhaps best known for his festive fiction

Charles Dickens and Christmas go hand in hand. He is often credited with inventing Christmas as we know it and while it is an exaggeration, his vision of the perfect festive holiday has continued to persevere to this day.

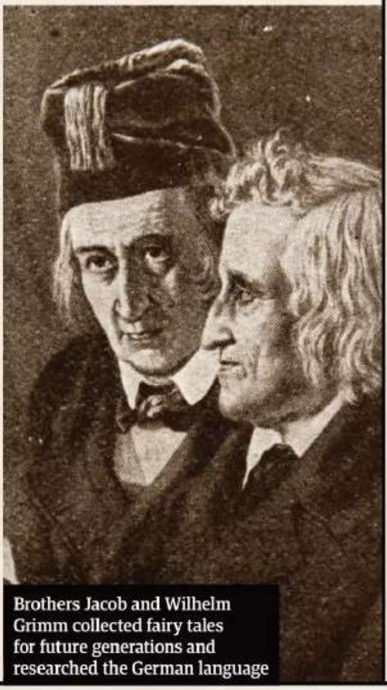
Thanks to his Christmas novels, in particular *A Christmas Carol*, published in 1843, he helped to spread the festive traditions that are so dear today. As the popularity of his novels spread, Dickens helped to revive the idea of the perfect family Christmas. His novel was so well loved that the author began to do public readings in 1849 and they continued right up until his death in 1870.

20

GRIMM'S FAIRY TALES PUBLISHED 1812

The first volume of fairy tales compiled and edited by German brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm was published after friends encouraged them to collect stories from old books and oral traditions in their home country. The initial volume contained 86 stories, and a second followed three years later with 70 tales.

First published as *Children's and Household Tales*, seven editions of Grimm's Fairy Tales had been published by 1857, including such classic stories as *Snow White*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Cinderella* and *Rapunsel*. The success of the Brothers Grimm has influenced countless others to collect and preserve tales, inspiring artists for generations.

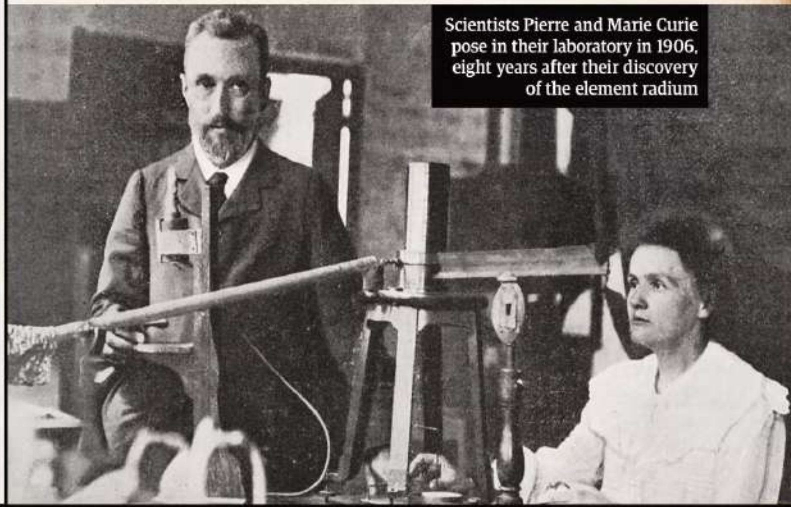


Brothers Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm collected fairy tales for future generations and researched the German language

21

RADIUM DISCOVERED 1898

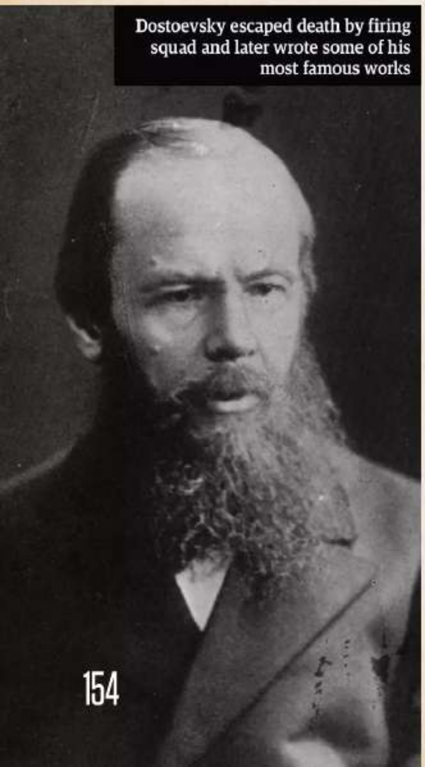
Scientists Marie and Pierre Curie extracted the radioactive element radium from uraninite ore and announced their discovery to the French Academy of Sciences five days later. Pierre concentrated on the physical properties of radioactivity, while Marie worked to isolate the element in its metallic state. In 1903, the Curies shared the Nobel Prize for Physics with Henri Becquerel for their study of radiation. After Pierre was tragically killed in an accident in 1906, Marie continued her effort, succeeding in 1911 and receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery of the elements polonium and radium and the isolation of radium.



Scientists Pierre and Marie Curie pose in their laboratory in 1906, eight years after their discovery of the element radium

22

DOSTOEVSKY ALMOST KILLED 1849

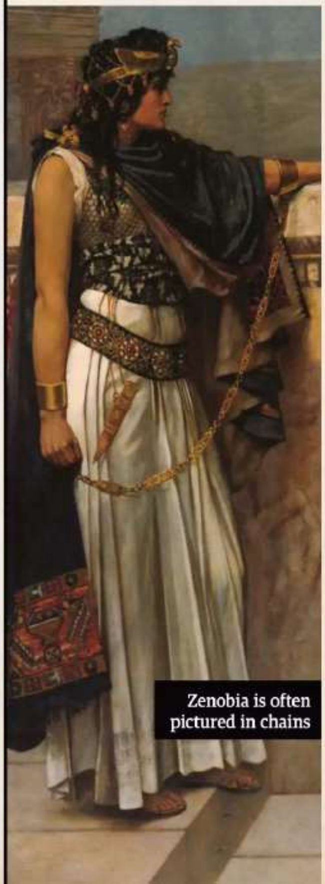


Dostoevsky escaped death by firing squad and later wrote some of his most famous works

For his association with the Petrashevsky Circle, deemed a threat to social stability in Russia, author Fyodor Dostoevsky, along with his fellow circle members, was sentenced to death by firing squad at Semyonov Place in Saint Petersburg. The men were placed in groups of three, and the sentence was about to be carried out when a message from Tsar Nicholas I arrived just in the nick of time commuting the sentences. Dostoevsky instead served four years of hard labour and lived to publish numerous additional works. Among them are the classic novels *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*. When he did die in Saint Petersburg in 1881, it was of natural causes.

23

QUEEN ZENOBIA IS BORN 240



Zenobia is often pictured in chains

Not many women got a chance to rule in the ancient world but Zenobia, who is often thought to have been born on 23 December, made sure she had her time on the throne. After marrying Odaenathus, a Romanised Arab and ruler of Palmyra, it's thought she had him killed around 267 CE and proclaimed power in the name of their son.

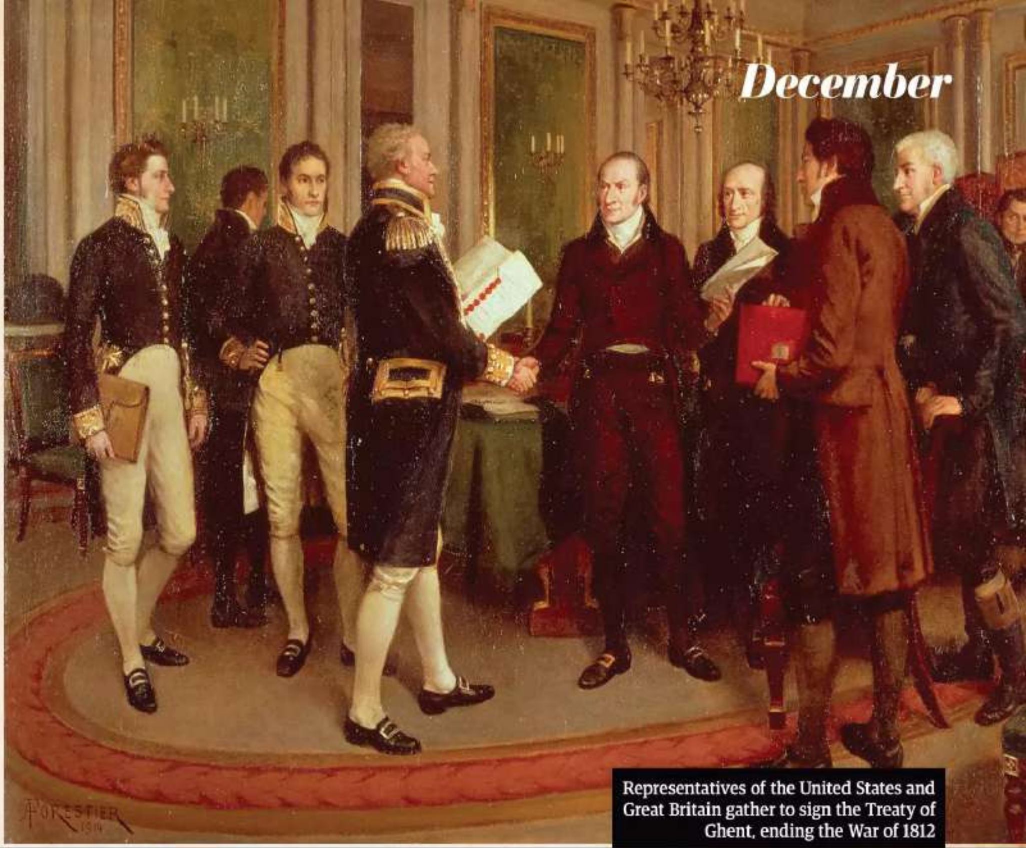
Zenobia ended the idea that Palmyra was submissive to the Roman Empire and Emperor Gallienus was powerless to stop her. The next emperor wasn't much better – he had no choice but to accept her sovereignty.

It was in Emperor Aurelian that Zenobia would finally meet her match. He stormed Palmyra but the queen was overconfident and when she tried to flee, she was captured at the Euphrates River. We may never know if she committed suicide or was brought to Rome but her legacy lives on as a woman who took on one of the greatest empires the world has ever seen.

24 TREATY OF GHENT 1814

The Treaty of Ghent, signed in the city in what was then the United Netherlands, ended the vicious War of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States. The nations agreed to return prisoners of war, relinquish control of lands and ships captured during the conflict, and to work towards an end to the international slave trade.

In addition, the United States vacated land that it was occupying in Spanish Florida. However, news of the treaty travelled slowly and the Battle of New Orleans, a decisive American victory that made Andrew Jackson a national hero, was fought on 8 January 1815, about two weeks after the war had actually finished.



Representatives of the United States and Great Britain gather to sign the Treaty of Ghent, ending the War of 1812

25 A TIME FOR CORONATIONS

A number of Medieval monarchs consciously chose to be crowned on Christmas Day. It meant that their coronation would tie in with the celebrations for the birth of Christ, which would emphasise their divine right to rule as awarded to them by God.

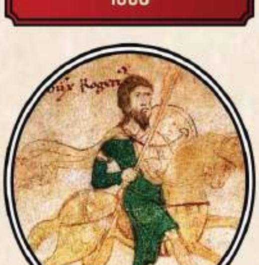
CHARLEMAGNE HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR
800

MIESZKO II LAMBERT KING OF POLAND
1025

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR KING OF ENGLAND
1066

BOLESŁAW II KING OF POLAND
1076

BALDWIN I KING OF JERUSALEM
1100



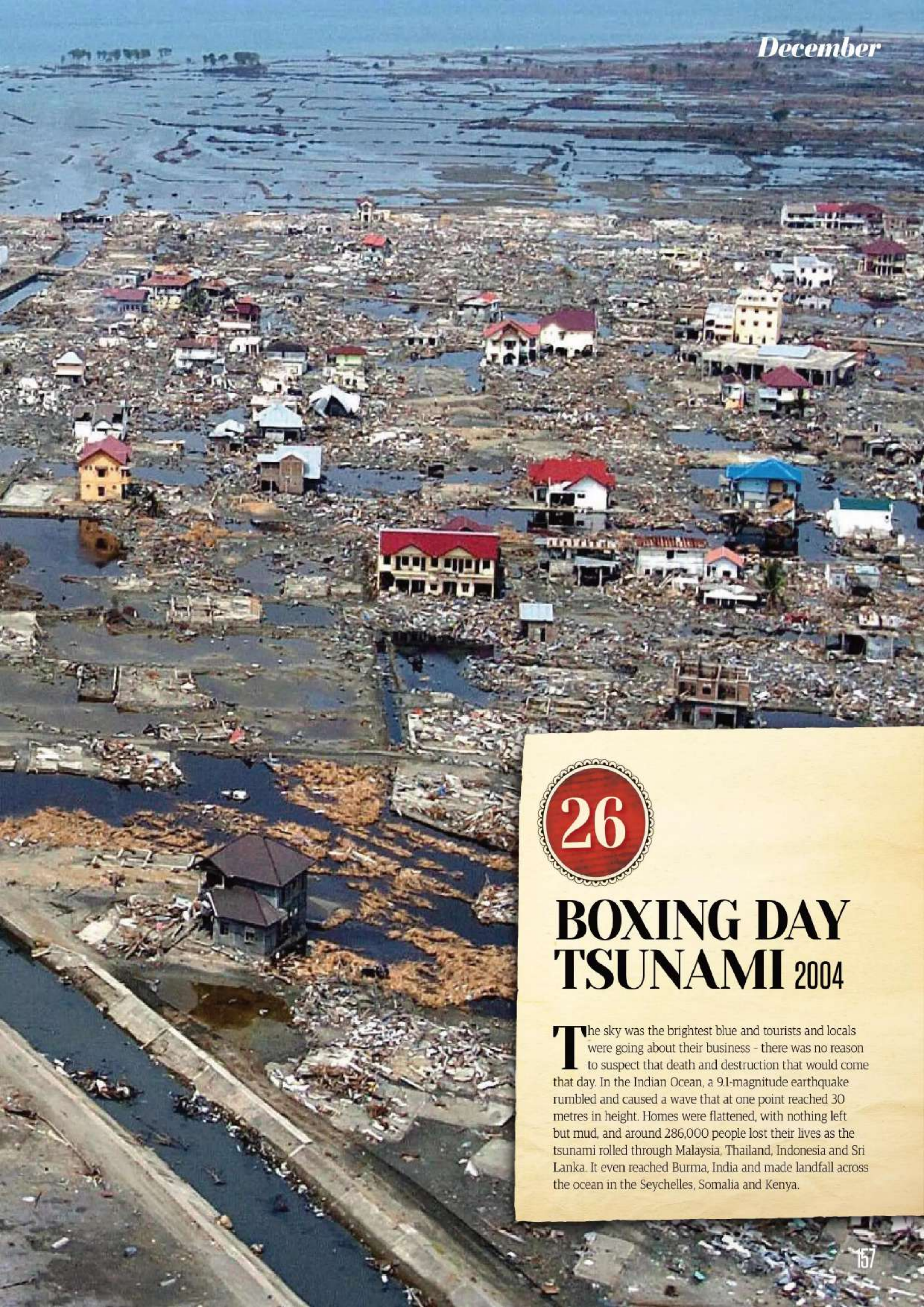
ROGER II KING OF SICILY
1130

THREE LEADERS WHO LOST THEIR CROWNS AT CHRISTMAS

LEO V, EMPEROR OF THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE
Assassinated
820

VETRANIO, CO-EMPEROR OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
Forced to abdicate
350

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV, PRESIDENT OF THE SOVIET UNION
Resigned
1991



26

BOXING DAY TSUNAMI 2004

The sky was the brightest blue and tourists and locals were going about their business - there was no reason to suspect that death and destruction that would come that day. In the Indian Ocean, a 9.1-magnitude earthquake rumbled and caused a wave that at one point reached 30 metres in height. Homes were flattened, with nothing left but mud, and around 286,000 people lost their lives as the tsunami rolled through Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka. It even reached Burma, India and made landfall across the ocean in the Seychelles, Somalia and Kenya.

27

GUSTAVE EIFFEL DIES 1923

Gustave Eiffel is best remembered for the Eiffel Tower, a symbol of modern France

French civil engineer Gustave Eiffel died in Paris, the city that was home to his most famous structure, at the age of 91 - he had designed the Eiffel Tower in the French capital for the 1889 Universal Exposition. The tower is a feat of engineering, rising 324 metres above the city. Originally derided as a modern monstrosity, it was later viewed as a work of art and it has come to symbolise modern France. Eiffel was also chief engineer of the Statue of Liberty, designing its internal skeletal structure. In 1882, he also began working on the Garabit viaduct, at the time the tallest bridge in the world, and contributed to the fields of aerodynamics and meteorology.

28

WOODROW WILSON BORN 1856

Progressive Democrat Woodrow Wilson served two terms as president of the United States from 1913 to 1921

Woodrow Wilson, the 28th president of the United States, was born to a former slave-holding Presbyterian family in Staunton, Virginia. Wilson, a Democrat, served as president of Princeton University and governor of New Jersey before his election as leader of the United States in 1912. During his tenure he introduced progressive legislation and worked to keep the country neutral during World War I, winning re-election in 1916 with the slogan, "He kept us out of war!" Wilson served as the US representative at Versailles and championed the League of Nations. However, incapacitated by a stroke in 1919, his last years were spent in seclusion and he died at the age of 67 on 3 February 1924.

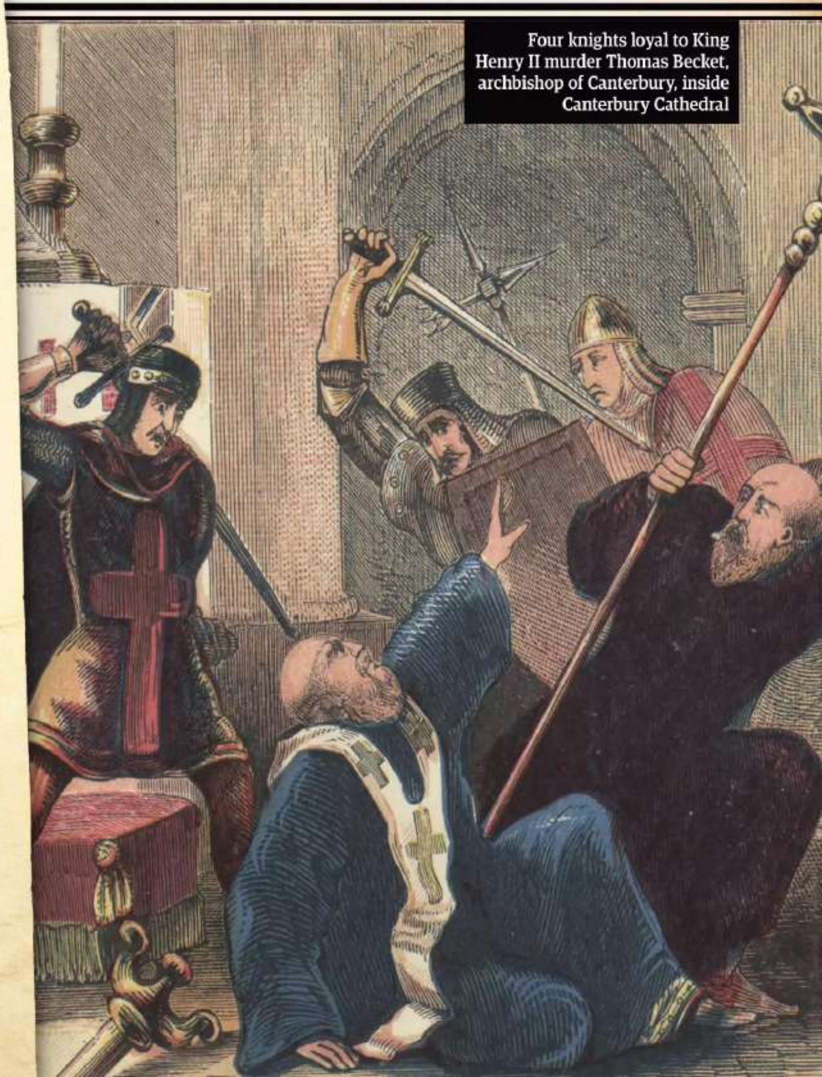
29

THOMAS BECKET ASSASSINATED 1170

After interpreting King Henry II's commentary on the archbishop of Canterbury's continuing opposition as a wish that he should be killed, four knights picked up their swords. They found the archbishop, Thomas Becket, in Canterbury Cathedral and confronted him at the High Altar, ordering him to accompany them to Winchester to answer charges. When he refused, they butchered him.

The friction between the monarch and the archbishop dates back to Becket's appointment as Lord Chancellor, one of the highest ranking civil positions in the kingdom, by Henry II. Becket had enforced the policies of the throne and gains the goodwill of the king, who saw Becket as a father figure. However, upon his appointment as archbishop, Becket had become an ascetic and had turned towards the primary authority of the Roman Catholic Church rather than the state.

As the rift between the sovereign and archbishop deepened, the latter was forced to flee, seeking the protection of the French monarch and guidance from Pope Alexander III. Henry proposed a compromise, allowing Becket to return to England, but further disagreements resulted in Becket's excommunication of several individuals, rekindling Henry's enmity and leading to his own martyrdom. Becket is revered as a saint of both the Catholic and Anglican churches.



Four knights loyal to King Henry II murder Thomas Becket, archbishop of Canterbury, inside Canterbury Cathedral

Hubble revolutionised the field of astronomy with the discovery of galaxies beyond the Milky Way

30 OTHER GALAXIES CONFIRMED 1924

American astronomer Edwin Hubble, perhaps the most influential astronomer of all time, expanded human understanding of the universe with the astonishing announcement that other galaxies exist beyond the Milky Way, the spiral galaxy that is home to our solar system and the planet Earth. Hubble worked from the Mount Wilson Observatory in California and used the new 100-inch Hooker Telescope, state-of-the-art equipment at the time.

The astronomer's research into nebulae revealed the existence of Cepheid variable stars - huge stars that vary in brightness. He calculated the distance to them based on their relative brightness and realised that they are many times distant, beyond the outer reaches of the Milky Way. Hubble photographed the Andromeda "nebula" and concluded that Andromeda is actually another galaxy, at least equal in size to the Milky Way and containing billions of stars that emit billions of times more light than the Sun. His findings were presented in a paper to the American Astronomical Society in 1925.

Hubble continued his work, discovering many other galaxies and concluding that the universe is expanding, which gave rise to Hubble's Law and the Big Bang Theory. Hubble, born in Marshfield, Missouri, in 1889, is remembered today for establishing the fields of extragalactic astronomy and observational cosmology. NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, launched in 1990, continues to make significant discoveries.

31 BORIS YELTSIN RESIGNS 1999

In an unexpected broadcast carried on television, Boris Yeltsin resigned the presidency of Russia three months before the March 2000 elections, naming Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to succeed him as the acting president.

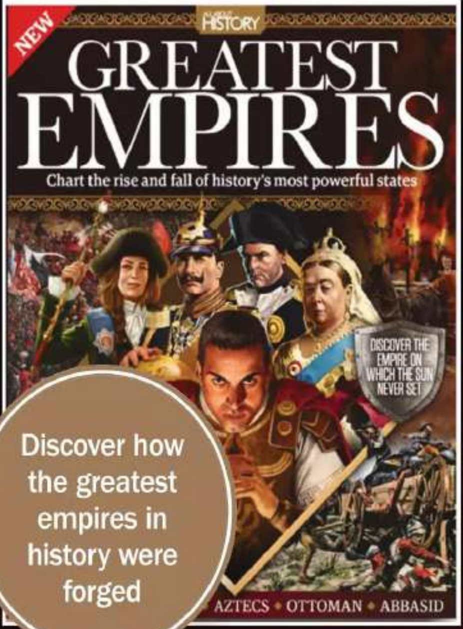
"Russia must enter the new millennium with new politicians, new faces, new intelligent, strong and energetic people... And for those of us who have been in power for many years, we must go," Yeltsin tells his audience, adding, "I did all I could," and asking for forgiveness because "many of our hopes have not come true".

The 68-year-old Yeltsin had led Russia out of the collapse of the Soviet Union towards a market economy and elements of democracy in government. Russia's first democratically elected president, he had assumed the office in 1991 after heroically leading democratic opposition to an attempted coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that summer, and had been due to relinquish power when his term was scheduled to end in June 2000.

He was praised for his introduction of economic reforms that engendered a Western type of free market in his country. A former communist strongman, Yeltsin had exerted the leadership that had been necessary to prevent chaos in the wake of the demise of the Soviet Union.

Several theories behind his abrupt resignation emerged, including the results of recent parliamentary elections that indicated a coming shift in power, war in Chechnya, and his own declining health with quintuple bypass surgery, ulcers, breathing difficulties and recent periods of disorientation. He had also been known to drink alcohol to excess. He died in Moscow of heart failure seven years later, aged 78, leaving a mixed legacy behind.

Russia's first democratically elected president, Yeltsin abruptly resigned before the end of his term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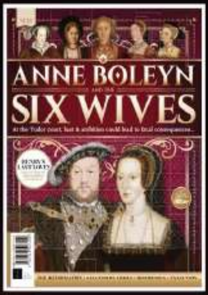
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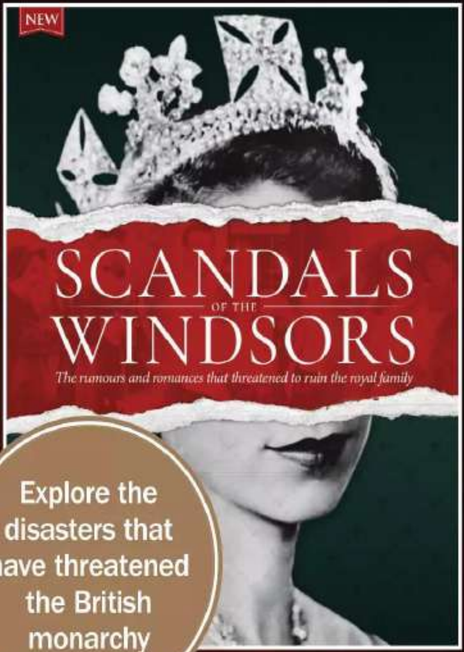
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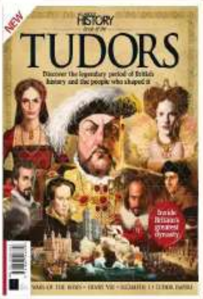
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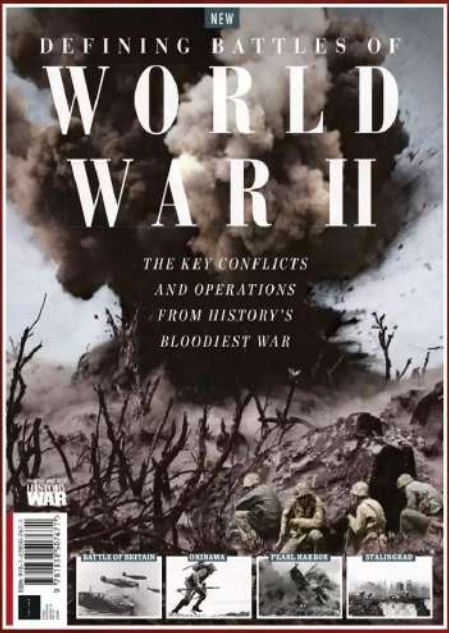

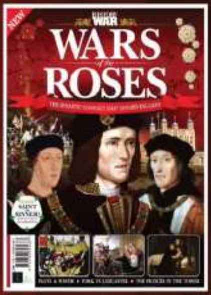

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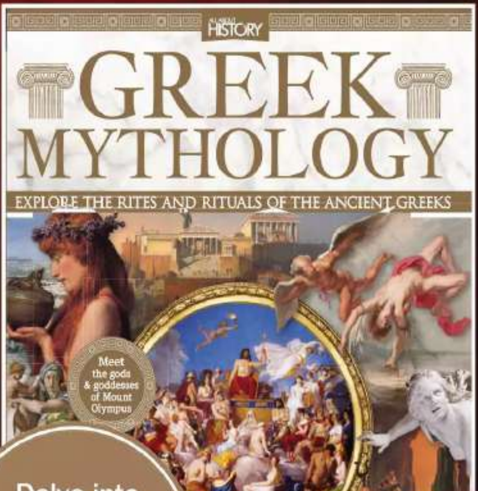

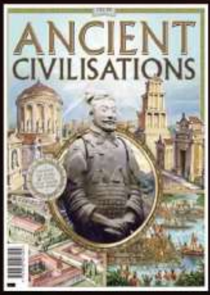

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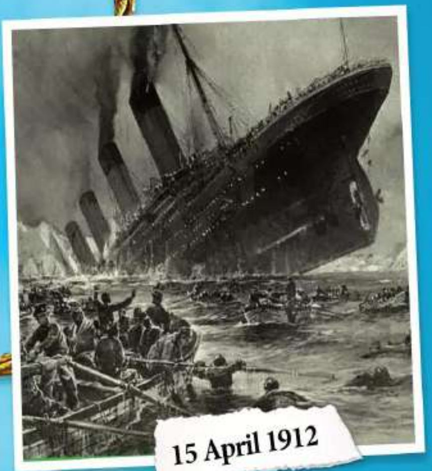
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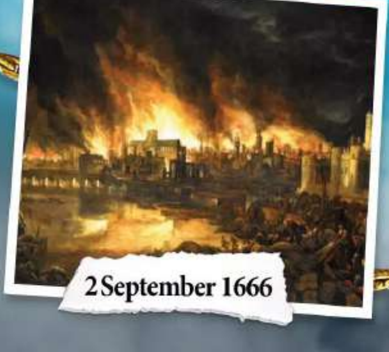
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